**Please see the ‘Interview Days – general instructions for candidates’ document for details on the structure of the morning part of the interview day.**

# PGCE Secondary History Interviews

Following the morning session, subject specific interviews will take place from 12.15. You will be free to leave after your subject interview but the time of this will be dependent on the number of candidates.

**Interviews will consist of:**

a) a general introduction to the Exeter PGCE programme

b) observation of a teaching extract from a real lesson and participation in a reflective discussion

c) presentation of a teaching resource/source from history and explanation of how you might use it to engage and enthuse pupils (see Interview Days – general instructions for candidates document for more details)

d) written, subject-specific task

e) one-to-one subject interview

Individual written task:

On the interview day you will be asked to complete a short written task based on your reading of an article from the journal, Teaching History. You have been given access to the article before the interview and you will need to read it in advance so that you are ready to respond to the questions which will be set on the interview day.

We recommend that you make notes, which you may bring to the interview day, together with the extract, to refer to while undertaking the task. If you do bring notes, you must ensure your name is on each page and you hand them in with your completed task.

Formal interview:

In the one-to-one interview (approximately 15-20 minutes), we will be looking to explore your reasons for wanting to teach history and the relevance of your previous experience. In your preparation for the interview, you should take careful note of the selection criteria which are listed below.

Selection criteria:

Interviewers will be hoping to offer places on the Secondary PGCE History course to those applicants who demonstrate:

* a clear interest in history as an academic discipline and a discrete subject on the school curriculum
* strong subject knowledge and a commitment to developing any weaker areas
* some understanding of the place and purpose of history in the curriculum
* an enthusiasm for the teaching of history in secondary schools
* a vision for what school history should or could be
* some awareness of current issues and debates surrounding history in schools
* previous experience of working with young people and/or willingness to gain such experience
* evidence that you have reflected on your experience in a state secondary school history department
* a genuine interest in the education and well-being of young people
* a professional approach and commitment to the course
* an ability to communicate effectively and work as a member of a team

It would be helpful if you could complete the **initial subject knowledge** **audit** prior to interview and bring this with you on the day. It is not necessary to give details of your subject knowledge in the areas highlighted, but simply to record the level at which you have studied each aspect of the History curriculum to date. It is usual to have many gaps at this stage. The course is designed to help you fill the subject knowledge gaps and this initial subject knowledge audit helps us to do this more effectively.

If you have any additional needs that we should be aware of, please do let us know before the interview. We look forward to meeting you.

Bryan Smith

Secondary PGCE History Course Leader