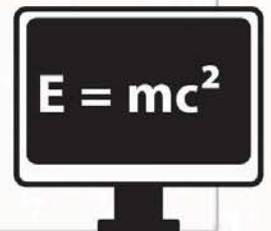




SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

JOB DESCRIPTION

A secondary school teacher prepares and teaches young people, and helps shape their interests and develop their future career options. They teach students in middle schools and high schools, and often specialize in one or two subjects from the curriculum. Many also mentor and provide learning support to pupils.



SALARY

Newly qualified teacher ★★★★★
High school principal ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Higher salary for teachers with advanced skills or who are in leadership roles •
Greater demand for private tutors •
Part-time work may be available

CAREER PATHS

Secondary school teachers use curriculum-based teaching to prepare pupils of different abilities for post-secondary education, entry into the workforce, and standardized testing. They also liaise with parents and school administrators. With experience and training, they can move into a variety of senior roles at a school, or branch into policy and administration or curriculum development.

STUDENT TEACHER While studying for their teaching degree, student teachers gain valuable classroom experience under the guidance and supervision of a certified teacher.



GRADUATE You will need a good standard of education followed by a degree in a subject in the school curriculum. A graduate-level teaching qualification may be required.



DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR Assumes responsibility for the department in their subject area. This role usually requires years of teaching and may require additional coursework.



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As a qualified teacher, you can teach pupils aged between 11 and 18, in one or two subjects. Teachers equip students with a range of life skills and prepare them for examinations.

SKILLS GUIDE



Excellent communication skills, and thorough mastery of material in subject(s) taught.



Creativity for planning stimulating lessons, and to inspire and motivate students.



The ability to manage large groups of people and deal with unruly behavior.



Highly developed organizational and time-management skills to prepare and deliver lessons.



Flexibility in teaching style and the ability to adapt to the individual needs of students.



PRINCIPAL Oversees the leadership and management of a school. Principals manage staff and make strategic decisions about the needs of the school and budget constraints.



SUPERINTENDANT Acts in an advisory capacity for local authorities and government bodies, making decisions on education policy and strategy.



PRIVATE TUTOR Offers private tutoring to pupils who need extra support beyond school lessons, or to prepare them for standardized tests. This role offers flexible hours.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Teaching • Working with children • Problem-solving • Strong interest in at least one subject taught at school



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS Secondary school teachers require a bachelor's degree or higher. Some states require other licensure.



LIFESTYLE Work runs through the academic year. Outside school hours, teachers plan lessons, grade exams, and take development courses.



LOCATION Most jobs are in secondary schools, but you could also work for a testing service, or for state or local school districts.



THE REALITIES The role may involve long hours, children with unruly behavior, and evening work, but guiding children can be very rewarding.

▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER** *see pp. 266–267*
- ▶ **COLLEGE PROFESSOR** *see pp. 270–271*
- ▶ **ADULT EDUCATION TEACHER** Works with people aged 19 and over to provide tutoring, training, and assessment in the workplace and in classrooms.
- ▶ **CAREER COUNSELOR** Helps children and adults make decisions about their careers. They give information and offer advice about learning opportunities and employment.
- ▶ **MUSEUM EDUCATION ASSISTANT** Escorts parties of school children around a museum or art gallery, and provides information on exhibits. This position may require a relevant degree and teaching qualification.