Group Discussions
How we assess your teamwork skills
Teaching is all about teamwork

• We are looking for well-rounded applicants who not only show individual goals and abilities, but also collaborate effectively and work well together

• You will be working alongside other professionals in your subject area, age group and wider school environment throughout your career - good teamwork is crucial
What are we looking for?

- **Behaviour** - How open-minded are you in accepting views contrary to your own?
- **Participation** - Are you an active speaker? Do you pay attention to the discussion?
- **Contribution** - Do you recognise the objective of the discussion? Are you contributing to the group goal?
- **Teamwork** - Are you encouraging others’ involvement and contribution?
- **Influence** - Are you shaping the discussion? Are you taking charge appropriately?
- **Communication** - Do you listen before speaking? Are you clear and concise in your contributions?
- **Problem Solving** - Do you effectively use the information others provide? Do you seek creative solutions to problems?
**Top Tips**

**Be polite**
- Even if you disagree, be diplomatic
- Use phrases like ‘I’m not sure I would agree’

**Be precise**
- Try not to include irrelevant information
- Remember others need time to talk and put across their points as well

**Acquire and apply knowledge**
- Take on the ideas that others put forward, as well as talking about your own views

**Be flexible**
- Don’t be afraid to change your opinion based on what others say

**Listen**
- Recognise that others in the group are also trying to balance their input with their listening
Top Tips

Speak confidently
• Be assertive without being aggressive
• Make eye contact with others to increase your engagement
• Try not to let your voice tremble - take deep breaths to calm nerves

Moderate
• Try to moderate any disagreements and focus on the goal of the discussion

Use positive gestures
• Show your interest in the discussion through positive body language

Consider others
• Invite less vocal group members to discuss their views
• Use people’s names to show you are paying attention
• Be a team player
• Remember that this is a group activity - you are not trying to ‘win’
• Try not to criticise anyone else and be constructive in your suggestions