

The TPO questions

A. Personal factors

- What is your motivation in becoming a PTSTA?
- Describe your professional life, psychological motivation, the economic implications, and your enthusiasm for transactional analysis.
- How does being a PTSTA fit into your mid and long-range professional life planning?
- What are your plans for the next five or ten years?

B. Professional factors

- Write about your own experience of being a trainee. Say something about its length; intensity; the range of TA taught; integration with other theories; supervision; self-experience; personal growth; the personal style of your trainer(s); ethical issues; cultural diversity; attachment and separation, and your exam experience.
- How will this experience influence your own outline for a curriculum?
- Describe your theoretical understanding of the teaching and learning process and say how you would apply this to the aims, contents, and methodology of your own training programme. Include your understanding of adult learning and curriculum theory and provide references for this.

C. Curriculum and Teaching

- In what context will you start training?
- Will you train alone or in cooperation with others? ○ If in co-operation, say with whom. ○ Make clear what your contribution will be.
- Who will participate in your training program?
- The program you describe must be a full training program leading to trainees becoming transactional analysts.
- How will you select participants, and what will your selection procedures be?
- What will your criteria be for taking a trainee into contractual training?
- Provide an overview of the curriculum and subjects you think should be taught in a complete training program.
- Give a detailed time structure for the training program, including the organization of the training days/seminars, special workshops, therapy marathons, supervision units, etc.
- Describe the methods you will use for teaching TA, including comments on your general and specific theory and practice. Say how you will lead experiential learning and encourage personal growth.
- How will you evaluate the level of your trainees at different stages of training?
- Include your ideas on basic competence; entering the examination group; preparation for examination.
- How will you make sure that your methods fit the educational level of your trainees and how will you consider the training levels of your trainees?

D. Exams

- Describe your ideas about evaluation processes and about guiding your candidates through the exam. Give examples of your good examination experience and describe what you would change in the exam process and what you could do to prepare yourself for being a good examiner.
- Demonstrate your theoretical understanding of supervision and describe your ideas and method of doing supervision.

F. Therapy

- Describe your ideas about the role of personal therapy within the training programmed. You might include comments on criteria and requirements for personal growth, the advantages and disadvantages of multiple personal relationships, possible ethical problems arising from the above.

G. Research

- Outline your ideas about the relationship between research and TA theory and practice. What TA research has had the most significance for you, and how will you integrate research into your training program?
- How will you ensure that the four separate fields of TA practice are accounted for in your training and teaching?