

Social studies common core interview questions Updated Version

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Preparing for a social studies teaching position, especially within the framework of the Common Core standards, requires an in-depth understanding of both pedagogical principles and content knowledge. Interview questions in this area are designed not only to assess your familiarity with social studies content but also to evaluate your ability to implement effective instructional strategies aligned with Common Core standards. These questions often probe your understanding of core concepts, your approach to student engagement, and your capacity to assess student learning effectively. In this article, we will explore the most common social studies interview questions under the Common Core framework, providing insights into what interviewers are looking for and how you can prepare comprehensive, compelling responses.

Understanding the Purpose of Social Studies Common Core Interview Questions

Before diving into specific questions, it's important to understand why these questions are asked. The overarching goal is to identify candidates who can:

- Demonstrate a solid grasp of social studies content and concepts.
- Apply pedagogical strategies that promote critical thinking and inquiry.
- Align instruction with Common Core State Standards (CCSS) to ensure students develop necessary skills.
- Foster an inclusive and engaging learning environment.
- Use assessment data effectively to inform instruction.

Interviews often blend questions about content knowledge, instructional practices, classroom management, and understanding of standards. Preparing for these areas will increase your confidence and improve your chances of success.

Common Social Studies Content and Pedagogical Questions

1. How do you incorporate the Common Core Standards into your social studies instruction?

What interviewers seek:

They want to see that you understand the standards and can align your teaching practices accordingly.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Emphasize integrating literacy skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) into social studies lessons.
- Describe how you use primary and secondary sources to develop critical thinking.
- Explain your approach to developing students' analytical skills through inquiry-based activities.
- Mention the use of text-dependent questions to deepen understanding.

2. How do you develop students' critical thinking and analytical skills in social studies?

What interviewers seek:

Your ability to foster higher-order thinking, not just memorization of facts.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Using questioning strategies that promote analysis and evaluation.
- Encouraging students to compare different perspectives and sources.
- Implementing project-based learning that requires synthesis of information.
- Teaching students to formulate evidence-based arguments.

3. Describe your approach to teaching historical thinking skills.

What interviewers seek:

Understanding of how students learn to interpret historical events and sources.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Emphasizing skills such as sourcing, corroboration, and contextualization.
- Using primary sources like diaries, photographs, and official documents.
- Creating activities that challenge students to analyze bias and perspective.

- Incorporating timeline activities to understand cause and effect.

4. How do you differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of learners in a social studies classroom?

What interviewers seek:

Strategies for inclusive teaching that accommodates varying abilities, backgrounds, and interests.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Differentiating assignments based on student readiness and learning styles.
- Using flexible grouping and varied instructional materials.
- Incorporating assistive technologies or scaffolding techniques.
- Providing choices in assignments to increase engagement.

Assessment and Student Engagement Questions

5. How do you assess student understanding of social studies content?

What interviewers seek:

Knowledge of formative and summative assessment strategies aligned with standards.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Utilizing exit tickets, quizzes, essays, and projects.
- Incorporating performance assessments like debates or presentations.
- Analyzing student work to identify misconceptions.
- Using assessment data to inform future instruction.

6. Can you give an example of how you make social studies content engaging for students?

What interviewers seek:

Creativity and ability to connect content to students' lives.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Using simulations, role-plays, or mock trials.
- Incorporating technology, such as interactive maps or digital archives.
- Connecting historical events to current issues.
- Inviting guest speakers or organizing field trips.

7. How do you foster student collaboration and discussion in your classroom?

What interviewers seek:

Skills in promoting a respectful, participatory learning environment.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Implementing cooperative learning strategies like think-pair-share or jigsaw.
- Creating structured discussion protocols to ensure all voices are heard.
- Using group projects that require collective research and presentation.
- Teaching students to evaluate sources and arguments collaboratively.

Standards and Curriculum-Specific Questions

8. How familiar are you with the Common Core State Standards for literacy in social studies?

What interviewers seek:

Your knowledge of CCSS literacy standards and how to embed them in social studies lessons.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Understanding of CCSS Reading Standards for Informational Text and Literacy in History/Social Studies.
- Strategies for teaching students to analyze complex texts.
- Designing lessons that develop vocabulary and academic language.
- Using text-dependent questions and evidence-based writing tasks.

9. How do you integrate cross-curricular connections in your social studies lessons?

What interviewers seek:

Ability to link social studies with other disciplines like language arts, science, or math.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Designing projects that require research, data analysis, or writing.
- Collaborating with colleagues for interdisciplinary units.
- Incorporating math skills through data interpretation or graphing.
- Using writing assignments to deepen understanding of social studies topics.

10. How do you ensure your lessons are aligned with state and national standards?

What interviewers seek:

Your familiarity with standards and how you plan lessons accordingly.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Reviewing standard benchmarks and learning objectives during planning.
- Using curriculum maps that align lessons with standards.
- Regularly referencing standards during instruction and assessment.
- Adjusting instruction based on standards and student needs.

Behavioral and Situational Questions

11. Describe a challenge you faced in teaching social studies and how you addressed it.

What interviewers seek:

Problem-solving skills and resilience.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Identifying a specific challenge (e.g., student disengagement, diverse abilities).
- Explaining your strategy to address the issue.
- Reflecting on the outcome and what you learned.

12. How do you handle controversial topics in social studies to promote respectful discussion?

What interviewers seek:

Your ability to manage sensitive discussions thoughtfully.

Sample points to include in your answer:

- Establishing ground rules for respectful dialogue.
- Presenting multiple perspectives objectively.
- Encouraging evidence-based discussion.
- Monitoring discussions to ensure inclusivity and respect.

Conclusion: Preparing for Your Social Studies Common Core Interview

Success in a social studies interview within the Common Core framework hinges on demonstrating a blend of content expertise, pedagogical strategies, and a clear understanding of standards. To prepare effectively:

- Review the Common Core State Standards relevant to social studies and literacy.
- Reflect on your teaching experiences and be ready to share specific examples.
- Practice articulating how you incorporate critical thinking, inquiry, and differentiation.
- Stay informed about best practices in social studies education, including the use of primary sources and technology.

By familiarizing yourself with these common interview questions and crafting thoughtful responses, you will present yourself as a knowledgeable, reflective, and student-centered educator ready to meet the demands of the position.

Remember: Authenticity and enthusiasm are key. Share your passion for social studies and your commitment to fostering engaging, meaningful learning experiences aligned with the Common Core standards. Good luck!

Social Studies Common Core Interview Questions are a crucial aspect of the hiring process for educators, curriculum developers, and administrators aiming to align their expertise with the standards set forth by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These questions serve multiple purposes: assessing content knowledge, pedagogical strategies, understanding of the standards,

and ability to foster critical thinking and civic-mindedness among students. Preparing for such interviews requires a nuanced understanding of the standards, current educational practices, and the skills necessary to implement effective social studies instruction. In this comprehensive review, we will explore common themes, sample questions, effective responses, and tips to excel in interviews centered around social studies and the Common Core.

Understanding the Importance of Social Studies in the Common Core Context

Before diving into interview questions, it's essential to grasp why social studies is a key component of the Common Core framework. While the CCSS primarily emphasizes literacy and mathematical skills, it also emphasizes the importance of developing students' critical thinking, analytical skills, and civic understanding through content-rich social studies instruction.

Features of Social Studies in the CCSS:

- Integration of literacy skills into social studies content
- Emphasis on inquiry-based learning and critical thinking
- Focus on understanding diverse perspectives and civic responsibilities
- Development of skills such as analyzing sources, constructing arguments, and evaluating evidence

Why This Matters for Interviews:

Interviewers look for candidates who can blend content expertise with pedagogical strategies that align with CCSS goals. Demonstrating deep understanding of these features can set you apart.

Common Themes in Social Studies CCSS Interview Questions

Interview questions generally revolve around several core themes:

- Content Knowledge and Pedagogical Strategies

Candidates are asked to demonstrate their understanding of social studies content along with effective teaching methods tailored to CCSS standards.

- Integration of Literacy and Critical Thinking

Questions often probe how candidates incorporate literacy skills?such as analyzing texts, writing arguments, and evaluating sources?within social studies lessons.

- Differentiation and Inclusive Practices

Interviewers want to assess how educators adapt instruction to meet diverse student needs and promote equity.

- Assessment and Evaluation

Questions may focus on formative and summative assessment strategies to gauge student understanding and skills development.

- Civic Engagement and Ethical Understanding

Candidates are sometimes asked how they foster civic responsibility and ethical reasoning through their teaching.

Sample Common Core Social Studies Interview Questions and How to Approach Them

- How do you incorporate literacy skills into your social studies lessons?

Sample Response Approach:

- Describe specific strategies such as close reading of primary and secondary sources.
- Use of graphic organizers to analyze texts.
- Incorporation of writing assignments that require argument development and evidence support.
- Example: "I have students analyze historical documents by annotating texts and then write persuasive essays that incorporate evidence from those sources."

Features to Highlight:

- Alignment with CCSS literacy standards.
- Use of diverse texts and sources.

- Emphasis on critical analysis and writing.

- How do you differentiate instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners in your social studies classes?

Sample Response Approach:

- Discuss tiered assignments, scaffolding techniques, and flexible grouping.
- Mention use of visual aids, bilingual resources, or technology tools.
- Provide examples of accommodating students with different reading levels or learning styles.

Pros:

- Demonstrates inclusivity and adaptability.
- Shows awareness of equity in education.

Cons:

- Requires careful planning and resource availability.
- Describe a lesson plan that integrates social studies content with literacy standards.

Sample Response Approach:

- Briefly outline a lesson where students investigate a historical event, analyze primary sources, and then write an argumentative essay.
- Highlight how this meets both content and literacy standards.

Features:

- Interactive and inquiry-based.
- Emphasizes skills like source analysis, writing, and discussion.

- How do you assess student understanding in social studies?

Sample Response Approach:

- Discuss formative assessments like exit tickets, quizzes, or discussions.
- Summative assessments such as projects, essays, or presentations.
- Use of rubrics aligned with CCSS criteria.

Pros:

- Provides multiple data points for understanding.
- Encourages student reflection.

Cons:

- Time-intensive to implement thoroughly.
- How do you promote civic engagement and ethical reasoning in your teaching?

Sample Response Approach:

- Incorporate current events and debates to foster real-world connections.
- Encourage community service projects.
- Use role-playing and simulations to develop empathy and ethical understanding.

Features:

- Builds responsible citizenship.
- Fosters critical thinking about societal issues.

Strategies for Preparing for a Social Studies CCSS Interview

Understand the Standards Thoroughly

- Review the CCSS literacy standards relevant to social studies.
- Familiarize yourself with state-specific social studies standards and how they align with CCSS.

Prepare Content and Pedagogical Examples

- Have concrete examples of lessons, assessments, and differentiation strategies ready.
- Be prepared to discuss how your teaching promotes critical thinking and civic responsibility.

Practice Common Questions

- Conduct mock interviews focusing on your instructional methods, assessment strategies, and content knowledge.
- Prepare clear, concise responses that demonstrate your expertise and alignment with CCSS.

Stay Current with Educational Trends

- Be aware of recent research, technological tools, and best practices in social studies education.

Reflect on Your Teaching Philosophy

- Be ready to articulate how your approach fosters inquiry, inclusivity, and skills development in line with CCSS.

Conclusion

Navigating social studies interviews centered around Common Core requires a comprehensive understanding of both content and pedagogical best practices. By familiarizing yourself with common questions, developing thoughtful responses, and demonstrating your ability to integrate literacy, critical thinking, and civic engagement, you can position yourself as a strong candidate. Remember, the goal is to show how your teaching not only imparts knowledge but also cultivates skills that prepare students for informed citizenship and lifelong learning. With thorough preparation and a reflective approach, you can confidently showcase your expertise and commitment to high-quality social studies education aligned with Common Core standards.

Question What are some key skills tested during a social studies interview for a teaching position? **Answer** Key skills include understanding of social studies curriculum, ability to develop engaging lesson plans, classroom management, knowledge of diverse teaching strategies, and evaluating

student understanding through assessment. How can I demonstrate my understanding of the Common Core standards in a social studies interview? You can discuss how you incorporate CCSS in lesson planning by aligning lessons with literacy and critical thinking goals, using evidence-based strategies, and integrating reading and writing skills into social studies content. What are some effective ways to answer questions about differentiating instruction in social studies? Highlight strategies such as using varied instructional methods, providing materials at different reading levels, incorporating multimedia resources, and offering alternative assessments to meet diverse student needs. How should I prepare to discuss integrating technology into social studies lessons? Be ready to share specific tools and platforms you use (like interactive maps, digital archives, or educational apps), and explain how technology enhances student engagement and understanding of social studies concepts. What questions are commonly asked about assessing student understanding in social studies? Interviewers often ask about your methods for formative and summative assessments, such as quizzes, projects, debates, or written reflections, and how you use assessment data to inform instruction. How can I demonstrate cultural competence and inclusivity in my social studies teaching during an interview? Discuss incorporating diverse perspectives and materials, addressing multiple narratives, and creating an inclusive environment that respects and celebrates different cultures and histories. What are some common scenarios or behavioral questions asked in social studies interviews? Questions may include handling classroom disruptions, modifying lessons for different learning styles, or resolving conflicts related to sensitive historical topics. Prepare examples that showcase your problem-solving skills. How do I show my passion for social studies and student engagement during the interview? Share specific examples of successful lessons, extracurricular activities, or projects that sparked student interest, and express your enthusiasm for fostering critical thinking and civic responsibility. What is the best way to stay updated with current trends in social studies education for interview preparation? Stay informed by reading educational journals, participating in professional development, joining social studies associations, and reviewing recent curriculum standards and best practices.

Related keywords: social studies interview questions, common core standards, social studies teacher interview, interview tips social studies, teaching social studies, common core curriculum questions, social studies interview prep, education interview questions, social studies assessment questions, teaching strategies social studies

A concise history of the common law

A Concise History of the Common Law

The common law is a fundamental legal system that has shaped the legal frameworks of many countries, particularly those with roots in England. Its development reflects centuries of judicial

decisions, societal changes, and legislative reforms. Understanding the history of the common law provides valuable insight into how modern legal systems function and evolve. This article offers a comprehensive overview of the origins, evolution, and modern significance of the common law.

Origins of the Common Law

Early Medieval England

The roots of the common law trace back to the early medieval period in England, around the 9th and 10th centuries. During this time, England was a patchwork of local customs and laws, with each region applying its own rules. This fragmentation often led to inconsistent judicial decisions, creating challenges for fairness and stability.

The Role of Royal Authority

King William the Conqueror's Norman invasion in 1066 marked a pivotal point in unifying English law. Following the conquest, William sought to centralize authority and establish a uniform legal system to consolidate his rule. He appointed royal judges who traveled across the kingdom, applying royal justice consistently.

Development of Royal Courts

Over time, royal courts became the primary institutions for administering justice. These courts began to develop a body of precedents—that is, judicial decisions that serve as authoritative guides for future cases—laying the groundwork for the common law.

The Evolution of the Common Law

Growth of Judicial Precedent

A core feature of the common law is the doctrine of stare decisis, meaning "to stand by things decided." This principle emphasizes consistency and predictability in legal rulings.

- Judges looked to previous cases to decide new disputes.
- Over time, this created a coherent and gradually expanding body of law.

Magna Carta and Legal Reforms

In 1215, the Magna Carta was signed, limiting royal authority and recognizing certain legal rights. While initially a political document, it influenced the development of legal principles such as due

process and the rule of law.

Common Law and Equity

As disputes grew more complex, rigid adherence to common law sometimes led to unfair results. To address this, courts of equity emerged in the late Middle Ages, providing remedies based on fairness rather than strict legal rules. Eventually, the common law and equity systems were merged, creating a more flexible and just legal framework.

Key Developments in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods

Expansion of Legal Principles

During the 13th and 14th centuries, English law expanded to cover new areas such as contracts, torts, and property law. Notable developments include:

- Refinement of property rights.
- Development of the law of contracts, emphasizing promises and obligations.
- Recognition of torts, addressing civil wrongs and damages.

Legal Commentaries and Texts

Prominent legal scholars, like Sir Edward Coke and William Blackstone, authored influential commentaries:

- Sir Edward Coke's reports helped formalize common law principles.
- William Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-1769) became a foundational text, shaping legal thought for generations.

Colonial Spread of Common Law

As Britain expanded its empire, the common law was exported to colonies such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and India. These jurisdictions adapted and developed their own legal systems based on English common law principles.

The Common Law in Modern Times

Reform and Codification

In the 19th and 20th centuries, many countries undertook legal reforms to simplify and codify laws:

- Introduction of statutes to supplement or replace common law rules.
- Development of comprehensive legal codes, such as the Civil Code in France and the German Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (BGB).

Despite this, the common law remains vital, especially in areas like contracts, torts, and property law.

Common Law Today

Modern common law systems are characterized by:

- Judicial discretion and case-by-case analysis.
- Use of precedent to ensure consistency.
- Integration with statutory law, which often overrides or complements common law principles.

Courts continue to interpret and evolve legal principles through decisions that respond to contemporary societal needs.

Global Influence

The common law's principles influence legal systems worldwide. Countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and many former British colonies rely heavily on common law doctrines, while integrating local statutes and customs.

Significance of the Common Law

Flexibility and Adaptability

One of the key strengths of the common law is its ability to adapt over time. Judicial decisions can respond to new situations without waiting for legislative action, allowing the law to evolve organically.

Foundation for Legal Reasoning

The common law provides a framework for legal reasoning based on precedent, principles, and case analysis, fostering consistency and fairness.

Influence on Modern Legal Systems

Its legacy persists in:

- Legal doctrines and principles still in use today.
- The development of legal institutions and procedures.
- Legal education and scholarly research.

Conclusion

The history of the common law is a testament to the dynamic interplay between judicial decisions, societal changes, and legislative reforms. From its medieval origins to its modern application across the globe, the common law continues to shape the administration of justice in numerous jurisdictions. Its enduring principles of precedent, fairness, and adaptability ensure its relevance in addressing contemporary legal challenges. Understanding this rich history not only enriches our knowledge of law but also highlights the importance of judicial evolution in fostering justice and stability in society.

A Concise History of the Common Law

The evolution of the common law is a story that traces back over a millennium, shaping the legal systems of many countries, notably the United Kingdom and its former colonies. Rooted in medieval England, the common law's development reflects a blend of judicial decisions, legislative acts, and societal changes. This article explores the origins, significant milestones, and modern adaptations of the common law, providing a comprehensive yet accessible overview of this foundational legal tradition.

Origins of the Common Law: Medieval Foundations

The Anglo-Saxon Legal Landscape

Before the Norman Conquest of 1066, England's legal framework was fragmented, primarily consisting of customary laws practiced by local communities. These customary laws varied widely across regions and were often unwritten, relying on local traditions and informal judgments. The lack of a unified legal system meant that justice was inconsistent, and disputes were often settled through local customs or royal intervention.

The Norman Conquest and Centralization

The Norman Conquest marked a turning point. William the Conqueror introduced a more centralized

authority, which laid the groundwork for the development of a unified legal system. He established royal courts and appointed royal officials to administer justice uniformly, replacing disparate local customs with royal authority.

Early Royal Courts and Common Law Formation

During the 12th century, royal courts such as the Curia Regis (King's Court) became the primary venues for dispensing justice. These courts began to develop consistent legal principles, gradually replacing local customs with standardized rules. This process led to the emergence of a body of law that was common across the realm—the "common law."

The term "common law" initially referred to laws common to all of England, as opposed to local or customary laws. It was characterized by its reliance on judicial decisions—precedents—that provided consistency and predictability.

The Development and Principles of the Common Law

Case Law and Judicial Precedent

A cornerstone of the common law system is the doctrine of stare decisis, meaning "to stand by things decided." Under this principle, courts follow previous judicial decisions when ruling on similar cases. This reliance on precedent ensures consistency and helps law evolve gradually over time.

In practice, judges examined past decisions to resolve current disputes, creating a body of case law that grew with each ruling. This method contrasted with civil law systems, which rely heavily on codified statutes.

Legal Doctrines and Notable Cases

Throughout the medieval period, several legal doctrines emerged, shaping the common law:

- The Writ System: Formal written commands initiated lawsuits, providing procedural consistency.
- The Development of Tort Law: Cases involving personal injury and negligence laid the foundations for modern tort law.
- Property and Contract Law: Judicial decisions clarified rights over land and commercial agreements.

Notable cases, such as *Donoghue v. Stevenson* (1932), established principles like negligence, demonstrating how judicial reasoning influences broader legal doctrines.

The Role of Legal Scholars and Commentators

Legal scholars, such as Sir Edward Coke in the 17th century, contributed to the development and interpretation of the common law. Their writings helped clarify legal principles and influenced future judicial decisions.

The Expansion and Formalization of the Common Law

The Magna Carta and Limitations on Royal Power

The 1215 Magna Carta was a pivotal document that limited royal authority and recognized certain legal rights, laying the groundwork for constitutional principles within the common law tradition. It emphasized the importance of lawful due process, influencing subsequent legal developments.

The Establishment of Parliament and Statutory Law

While the common law was primarily judge-made law, the emergence of Parliament in the 13th century introduced statutory law?laws enacted by legislative bodies. Over time, statutes supplemented and sometimes superseded common law principles, leading to a dual legal system that coexists today.

The Growth of Legal Institutions

Legal institutions such as the Court of Common Pleas, the King's Bench, and later, the Court of Appeals, formalized judicial processes. These courts handled specific types of cases and contributed to the system's consistency and authority.

The Common Law in Modern Times

Adaptation to Societal Changes

From the Industrial Revolution onwards, the common law faced new societal challenges?industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancements. Courts adapted by developing new doctrines and refining existing ones to address issues like corporate liability, intellectual property, and digital privacy.

Influence of Equity and Statutes

To mitigate rigidities in the common law, courts developed the doctrine of equity, allowing for more flexible remedies such as injunctions and specific performance. Legislation also played a significant role, with statutes like the Law of Property Act 1925 modernizing property law.

The Common Law Today: A Dynamic System

Today, the common law remains a living system, continuously evolving through judicial decisions, legislative amendments, and societal values. Its principles underpin the legal frameworks of many nations, especially those with historical ties to England, such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and India.

Conclusion: The Legacy and Future of the Common Law

The history of the common law is a testament to the adaptive and resilient nature of this legal tradition. From its humble beginnings rooted in local customs, it has grown into a sophisticated system balancing precedent, legislation, and equitable principles. As society continues to change, the common law will likely remain a vital component of legal development, demonstrating its ability to evolve while maintaining continuity with its historical roots.

In understanding this history, we gain insight into how legal principles shape societal structures and individual rights—a story that continues to unfold in courts and legislatures around the world.

Question What is the common law and how did it originate? The common law is a body of legal principles developed through judicial decisions and customs in England, originating in the medieval period around the 12th century, and has since influenced many legal systems worldwide. **Answer** How did the common law evolve during the medieval period? During the medieval period, royal courts began to resolve disputes uniformly, developing consistent legal principles and establishing precedents that formed the foundation of the common law. What role did the Magna Carta play in the development of common law? Signed in 1215, the Magna Carta limited royal authority and laid down principles of justice, influencing the development of common law by emphasizing rights and the rule of law. How did the common law spread beyond England? Through colonization and the British Empire, the common law was exported to countries like the United States, Canada, Australia, and India, shaping their legal systems. What is the significance of judicial precedent in the common law system? Judicial precedent, or *stare decisis*, ensures consistency and stability by requiring courts to follow previous decisions when ruling on similar cases, a cornerstone of common law. How has the common law adapted to modern legal challenges? The common law has evolved through judicial interpretation and legislative reforms to address contemporary issues such as digital privacy, human rights, and environmental law. What are some key differences between common law and civil law systems? Common law relies heavily on case law and judicial decisions, whereas civil law systems are based on codified statutes and comprehensive legal codes. Why is understanding the history of common law important today? Understanding its history helps contextualize current legal principles, appreciate the development of justice systems, and recognize the influence of centuries of legal tradition on modern law.

Related keywords: common law, legal history, judicial system, legal principles, medieval law, case

law, legal evolution, English law, law development, legal tradition

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