

Checklist for planning questions

Purpose

The mindmap below provides a selection of useful questions that can be used as a checklist for planning and incorporating higher levels of thinking activities into classroom activities. It is a good idea to select some questions that can be used across a whole year group and then to monitor the quality of pupils' responses. An alternative plan would be to direct specific questions to a group of very able pupils who could feed back their thinking to the rest of the class.

A Checklist for planning questions

Knowing as a basis for action

- ◆ What basic knowledge does the learner need?
- ◆ What particular skills does the learner need? (E.g. map-reading skills, ecology techniques, science skills, silk-screening procedures)
- ◆ What are the relevant facts? And theories?
- ◆ What skills does the learner need to find out for herself or himself? •
- ◆ How is the work to be communicated? Does the learner have a variety of recording skills and techniques from which to choose?

Demonstrating understanding

- ◆ Can the learner identify main points? Similarities? Differences?
- ◆ Is it possible to ask any of these questions:
- ◆ Can you explain in another way?
- ◆ Why did this happen?
- ◆ What were/will be the consequences?
- ◆ How does this affect you/other people? Why?
- ◆ Would you make the same decision? Why? Why not?

Looking for overall patterns and relationships

- ◆ Can learners identify connections, sequences, patterns and themes?
- ◆ Is it possible to ask any of these questions:
- ◆ What is the overall plan?
- ◆ How do the components fit together?
- ◆ What is happening now?
- ◆ What happened before?
- ◆ What is likely to happen?
- ◆ How do you feel about it?
- ◆ Is it logical? Why? Why not?

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