

Question Bank

HIGHER LEVEL QUESTIONING STEMS

Questions that seek clarification:

- Can you explain that...?
- What do you mean by ...?
- Can you give me an example of ...?
- How does that help ...?
- Does anyone have a question to ask [student] about this answer?

Questions that invite analysis:

- What are other possible outcomes?
- How is ... similar to ...?
- What are some of the problems of ...?
- Can you distinguish between ...?
- What were some of the motives behind ...?
- What might someone else think differently about ...?

Questions that probe reason and evidence:

- Why do you think that ...?
- How do we know that ...?
- What are your reasons ...?
- Do you have evidence ...?
- Why might this be true / untrue ...?
- Can you give me an example / counter-example ...?

Questions to encourage synthesis:

- Can you see a possible solution to ...?
- If you had access to all resources how would you deal with ...?
- What would happen if ...?
- How many ways can you ...?
- Can you create new and unusual uses for ...?
- Can you develop a proposal which would ...?

Questions engaging evaluation:

- Is there a better solution to ...?
- How could X be considered better than Y?
- Can you defend your position about ...?
- Do you think ... is a good or a bad thing?
- How would you have handled ...?
- What changes to ... would you recommend?

Questions to develop metacognition:

- How does what you are doing help you?
- What one thing will you remember long after this lesson and why?
- What single question are you still trying to understand and why might this be?
- How did you come to that conclusion?
- Are there any other ways of thinking about this problem?
- What strategies are appropriate for solving this problem and why?
- What might other people's perspectives be on this?
- What strategies might you use to extract the additional information you need?
- How well are the different strategies working?
- How do you know you have got the right answer?
- How could this be interpreted in a different way?
- What do you need to know to be able to answer this better?
- How did you feel when you tried to answer the question?

Questions about implications and consequences:

- What follows (or what can we work out from) what you say ...?
- Does it agree with what was said earlier ...?
- What would be the consequences of that ...?
- Is there a general rule for that ...?
- How could you test to see if it were true ...?

Questions about the question/discussion:

- Do you have a question about that ...?
- What kind of question is it ...?
- How does what was said / the question help us ...?
- Where have we got to / who can summarise so far ...?
- Are we any closer to answering the question / problem ...?

Questions exploring alternative views:

- Can you put it another way ...?
- Is there another point of view ...?
- What if someone were to suggest that ...?
- What would someone who disagreed with you say ...?
- What is the difference between those views / ideas ...?

Adapted from Spendlove, D. (2015). *100 ideas for secondary school teachers: Assessment for learning*. London, England: Bloomsbury Education.