

Scheme of work 2: Asking questions

Overall objective

To master six kinds of question and understand their use

Learning objectives

1. Describe and categorise own and others' questions
2. Understand the purpose each kind of question sets out to achieve
3. Be able to ask questions appropriate to a given situation
4. Understand the role of questions in, and their effect on, a conversation
5. Understand the concept of the rhetorical question

Key learning

1. Six categories of question: essential, subsidiary, probing, provocative, clarification, strategic¹
2. The helpfulness of questions; that it is always wise to ask them and never evidence of stupidity

Resources

Types of question worksheet

Guidelines for paired work

[Jeremy Paxman](#) & [Eddie Mair](#) – probing / provocative questions

[Laurence Olivier](#) – essential questions

[Konstantin Cavafy](#) – clarifying / provocative questions

School 21 best-practice

Video: Pelagosa Island – early trials of oracy assessment (videos [one](#) and [two](#))

Context for 'Asking questions'

Situation	Type/purpose of talk	Relationship to audience	Shared Understanding	Size of Audience	Format	Rules
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asking questions	Interrogative	Peers and friends	Mixed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-to-one• Groups• Whole-class	Live	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•				<ul style="list-style-type: none">•		

Products

¹ NB: The rhetorical question is the result of using one of these types of question for rhetorical purposes. These are the kinds of question which rhetorical questions may pretend to be.