Question Bank: higher level questioning stems

the education hub



Developing metacognition

How does what you're doing help you?

What one thing will you remember long after this lesson and why?

Which one question are you still trying to understand and why?

How did you come to that conclusion?

Are there any other ways of thinking about this problem?

What strategies might you use to extract the extra information you need?

Implications & 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 ...?

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 ...?

Engaging evaluation

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

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? What strategies are appropriate for solving this and why?

What might other people's perspectives be?

How well are the different strategies working?

How do you know you have the right answer?

How else could this be interpreted?

What do you need to know to be able to answer this better?

How did you feel when you tried to answer the question?

Exploring other 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 ...?

Invite analysis

What are the 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 ...?

Encourage synthesis

Can you see a 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 that would ...?

Questioning the question

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 ...? re we any closer to answering the question / problem ...?

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