



# Questioning for assessment

## Effective questioning across the phases

Effective questioning techniques are an essential part of a teacher's toolkit. Great questions allow teachers to gather diagnostic, formative and summative assessment information.

This guide provides suggested question stems that can be used during each phase of the 5E model.

### Engage phase

What do you mean by...?

Tell me more about...?

I find that hard to understand—  
tell me...?

What makes you think...?

How do you know...?

How did you find out  
about that idea?

*Broad questions are important to draw out prior knowledge and learn about students' understandings and misconceptions about a concept.*

*Ask open questions that encourage students to discuss their ideas and experiences.*

### Explore phase

How are you going to...?

How will you be able to tell...?

How will you be sure it is a fair test?

What will you do when...?

It might be a good idea to think about...?

How did you arrive at that idea?

How will you know if...?

Why are you doing it that way?

What do you need to  
find out more about...?

### Explain phase

What do you think others might  
think about this...?

How is that idea different to..?

Some people say...

Does that fit with your idea..?

How did you arrive  
at that idea?

How will you be  
able to tell...?

### Elaborate phase

How are you going to...?

How will you be able to tell...?

How will you be sure it is a fair test?

What will you do when...?

It might be a good idea to think about...?

How did you arrive at that idea?

How will you know if...?

Why are you doing it that way?

What do you need to find out  
more about...?

How could you verify that?

What will happen if...?

*Questions that help students understand the concept in a new situation.*

### Evaluate phase

How have your ideas changed?

How is that different to..?

It seems you're not sure about...?

Do you have any  
questions about...?

What have you found out?

What else do we  
need to know?

What else might you do  
to be sure of that?

*As the class moves through the unit, questions should become more focused and reinforce the explanation of the concept.*

*Questions should help to assess students' understanding about the concept that has been explored. Often, these questions are the very questions used in the Engage phase.*