



Distinguishing between questions (Sciences)

This activity will...

- Aid confidence building
- Highlight nuances in question structures
- Develop skills of analysis
- Practice focusing content for an essay

Note: This is a useful activity at the beginning of term and before exams.

In advance of the supervision:

1. Prepare a list of essay questions around one topic. The questions should focus on different aspects of the topic, ask the students to analyse the material in different ways or ask them to perform different tasks such as 'describe', 'analyse', 'consider', 'argue'. For example:

Illustrate how enzyme activity is regulated in vivo.

Review how enzyme activity is regulated in vivo

Discuss how enzyme activity is regulated in vivo.

Explain how enzyme activity is regulated in vivo.

In the supervision:

2. Discuss lecture/essay topic as usual.
3. When you feel the students are ready to move on, introduce an essay question and ask students to either discuss or note down how they would answer it.
4. Discuss students' suggestions.
5. Follow the same procedure with a second question. Students will need to pay attention to the difference in focus.
6. Continue until you have dealt with all the questions. Alternatively, you may provide each student with a different question and ask them to talk to the group about how they would interpret it. Students can compare their ideas and discuss the differences in the questions.