



Examples of effective questions

Question	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes the issue controversial? • What are the key issues? • What is the interrelationship between these issues? • What are causes and consequences of these issues? • What are the different views about the issues? • Who holds these views? • Why do they have these views? • What reasons justify these views? • What is the 'hidden agenda'? • Are the views biased or prejudiced? • What or who influences these views? • What is your position on ...? 	<p>To encourage pupils to develop a deeper understanding about a controversial issue</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are you trying to show? • What do you need to find out? • What information do you need to find? • What sources will you use? • How will you justify your selection of information? • What steps will you take to ensure your information is balanced and reliable? • What steps will you take to identify bias, prejudice, stereotyping and propaganda? • What further research do you need to carry out? 	<p>To encourage pupils to plan research on a controversial issue</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you learned about this issue ...? • What would you do differently next time? • What could you do to improve your understanding about ...? 	<p>To encourage pupils to think, reflect and evaluate</p>



Examples of effective questions

Question	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we mean by ...? • What do you mean when you say ...? • Why do you think ...? • What evidence supports your views or argument? • What was your thinking behind your approach? • What evidence leads you to think ...? • Have you thought about ...? • What are the strengths and weaknesses of your views or argument? • How did you reach your conclusion? 	<p>To encourage pupils to clarify their reasoning and thinking</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think about ...? • What do you feel about ...? • Why do you feel ...? • What did your friends feel about ...? • Did your friends feel the same way as you? • Where you sympathetic/empathetic to others' views? • Are you aware of how your views, behaviour and the way you express your feelings can affect others? 	<p>To encourage pupils to think and reflect on their emotional development</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you learned about this issue ...? • What would you do differently next time? • What could you do to improve your understanding about ...? 	<p>To encourage pupils to think, reflect and evaluate</p>

For more information please see [Teaching Controversial Issues at Key Stage 3 & 4](#).