

What is Bloom's Taxonomy and how can it be used to promote effective questioning in your classroom?

Who was Bloom? Benjamin S Bloom (1913-99) developed his ideas for a system (or taxonomy) that provide a framework or simple checklist for planning questions.

'Taxonomy' means 'a set of classification principles'.

It underpins the **Knowledge, Attitude, Skills** structure of learning method and evaluation. It is widely used in education (and also in industry and corporate training) because it is always relevant to the understanding of people and organisations.

Bloom's Taxonomy model is in three parts:

1. **Cognitive domain** (intellectual capacity – i.e. **Knowledge or Think**)
2. **Affective domain** (feelings, emotions and behaviour – i.e. **Attitude or Feel**)
3. **Psychomotor domain** (manual and physical skills – i.e. **Skills or 'Doing'**)

An important premise of Bloom's Taxonomy is that each category (or level) must be mastered before progressing to the next.

As such the categories within each domain are **levels of learning development, and these levels increase in difficulty.**

Cognitive	Affective	Psychomotor
KNOWLEDGE	ATTITUDE	SKILLS
1. recall data	1. receive (awareness)	1. imitation (copy)
2. understand	2. respond (react)	2. manipulation (follow instructions)
3. apply (use)	3. value (understand and act)	3. develop precision
4. analyse (structure elements)	4. organise personal value system	4. articulation (combine, integrate related skills)
5. Synthesise (create/build)	5. internalise value system (adopt behaviour)	5. naturalisation (automate, become expert)
6. Evaluate (assess, judge in relational terms)		

This simple overview explains the taxonomy and helps us to understand how it can be used in a classroom situation. Refer back to it when considering and getting to grips with the detail, as you use the resources that have been provided to promote effective questioning techniques in the classroom.

For further information see:

www.businessballs.com/bloomstaxonomyoflearningdomains.htm