

Developing a formative culture: teacher practice audit

Education in Chemistry

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If you want to use a more formative approach for written questions in your classroom, why not try out the following audit by answering the questions below.

Answer the questions below to work out which practices you use and which you would like to develop. The questions at the top of the list reflect a summative culture and they get progressively more formative as you go down the list. Think about your school assessment culture and your own assessment beliefs and values so that you decide on an achievable next step to improve your classroom assessment practice.

Practices that you use often are likely to be well established. Practices you use sometimes may be areas that you want to spend time improving. If you rarely use particular practices, this might be because they are not part of your school or classroom culture, but you may wish to include them in future. Look at the 'Where to learn more' column for links to help.

	Practice	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Where to learn more
1	I use written tests to assess my students after a period of teaching.				
2	I use short written quizzes to assess my students' knowledge and understanding.				
3	I use multiple choice questions to diagnose gaps in my teaching.				How to use multiple choice questions Straight talk
4	I use the results from written tests to inform my students of their next steps in learning.				Make the most of tests
5	I use multiple choice questions to diagnose gaps in my students' learning.				How to make effective interventions How to use multiple choice questions for formative assessment
6	I use recall questions to help students test and learn their basic science knowledge.				Revisiting knowledge to improve recall
7	I use open-ended questions to diagnose knowledge and understanding, select suitable interventions and make improvements.				Challenging concepts in chemistry
8	I use open-ended questions to diagnose knowledge and understanding and make improvements, supported by a rubric for interventions.				Challenging concepts in chemistry
9	Alongside written tasks, I support my students with self-regulation strategies.				Show students how to direct their own learning
10	I structure my lessons so that learners can try a task, reflect and make improvements.				Structuring content for better learning