



## Student Questions for Assessment

### Choose a Unit of Instruction

Choose a unit of instruction for which reading is required. Before beginning the unit, explain to students that a formal test will be given at its end, but that students will be the authors of the questions on that test. They will be divided into small groups, take group notes on their assigned passage, and will then generate questions on the basis of the readings that they have been assigned.

Divide students into groups of three to five. Assign specific passages from the text to each group. Ask each student in the group to read through the passage. When all students in the group have finished reading, have one student act as scribe, and record a minimum of three to five key points of information in the passage. Explain in advance that the same information that will be presented in the passage should be the basis for questions that the students will then generate. The teacher may choose to collect these notes and provide a group mark for them.

One member of the group will then summarize this information by presenting it orally to the class, while another student records these three to five points in note form on the board for other students to copy.

### Have Students Generate Questions

Once all groups have presented their information to the class, have each student in the group generate three questions on the basis of its content. There are three basic criteria for a good question:

- 1) The question should reflect the content of the relevant passage.
- 2) The question should neither be too specific, nor too general.
- 3) The answer to the question should be included. If multiple choice questions are provided, then other possible choices should also be included, and should be reasonable responses.

Each student must try to generate the questions on their own. Then, have students in each group share their questions with one another, and pick one question for each member of the group to be submitted to the teacher. A scribe will then record all chosen questions on one sheet and submit it to the teacher.

The teacher will generate a test on the basis of questions submitted. Students will already have generated study notes on the basis of the information presented by each group. The information will have been presented orally to the class, as well as in point form on the board, and each student will also have become an expert in their particular area of investigation in the process.