

# **ART OF** **QUESTIONING**

By

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*Questions may be the most powerful  
technology we have ever created.  
Questions and questioning allow us  
to make sense of a confusing world.  
They are the tools that lead to  
insight and understanding.*

**Jamie McKenzie**

*“Teaching means skillful questioning  
to force the mind to see, to arrange,  
to act.”*

***Thring***

*“Questioning is the key to all  
educative activities”*

***Parker***

# ***PURPOSE OF QUESTIONING***

- ***To test knowledge.***
- ***To locate difficulties.***
- ***To arouse motivation.***
- ***To secure active participation of students.***
- ***To apply knowledge.***
- ***To recapitulate.***
- ***To promote thinking and originality.***
- ***To increase self-confidence.***
- ***To maintain discipline.***
- ***To promote intellectual and social development.***
- ***To determine what students know and don't know.***

# Classification of Questions

Questions are classified into two categories:-

- Natural Questions , &
- Formal Questions.

***Natural Questions:-*** Are those which the questioner asks question spontaneously. He does not know the information about which he asks or enquires. Children's spontaneous questions are of this type.

***Formal Questions:-*** Are those where the questioner knows the answer of the question. Teacher's questions belong to this category. They are usually asked by the teacher to stimulate some type of response on the part of the pupils.

# ***CLASSIFICATION OF FORMAL QUESTIONS IN CLASSROOM:-***

- Introductory or preliminary questions.***
- Developing questions.***
- Recapitulatory questions.***

**INTRODUCTORY OR PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS:-** *These are asked at the beginning of the lesson.*

### **PURPOSE:-**

- *To test the previous knowledge of the students.*
- *To know with what to start and where to start.*
- *To bring the knowledge of the students in forefront for the new knowledge.*
- *To motivate students to receive the new knowledge.*
- *Teacher is able to present the **unknown** in relation to **known**.*

### **PRECAUTIONS:-**

- *Questions should be only a few in number.*
- *Only relevant questions should be asked.*
- *They should help in brief revision of the previous lesson.*



***DEVELOPING QUESTIONS:-*** *These questions are asked by the teacher in the course of his lesson.*

### **PURPOSE:-**

- *To stimulate mental activity in pupils.*
- *To discover new facts, to formulate new generalizations.*
- *To direct attention to important points.*
- *To keep the pupils alert throughout the lesson.*

### **PRECAUTIONS:-**

- *while narrating a story or incident, questions should not be asked in between. However, questions may be asked in the end.*
- *If a paragraph is being read, questions should not be asked till it is finished.*

**RECAPITULATORY QUESTIONS:-** *These questions are asked at the end of the whole lesson as well as at the end of each section in the progress of lesson.*

### **PURPOSE:-**

- *To revise the lesson.*
- *To make the teacher sure that the students have properly learnt the subject matter.*
- *To fix the knowledge learnt in the minds of the students.*
- *The teacher feels satisfied that the knowledge has gone home.*

### **PRECAUTIONS:-**

- *Black board writing should be rubbed off.*
- *Pupils may be allowed to think a while.*

# ***PROPER TECHNIQUE OF CLASS QUESTIONS:-***

## ***1. WHEN TO ASK QUESTIONS:-***

- *In the beginning of lesson.*
- *In the course of lesson.*
- *During the course of recapitulation.*

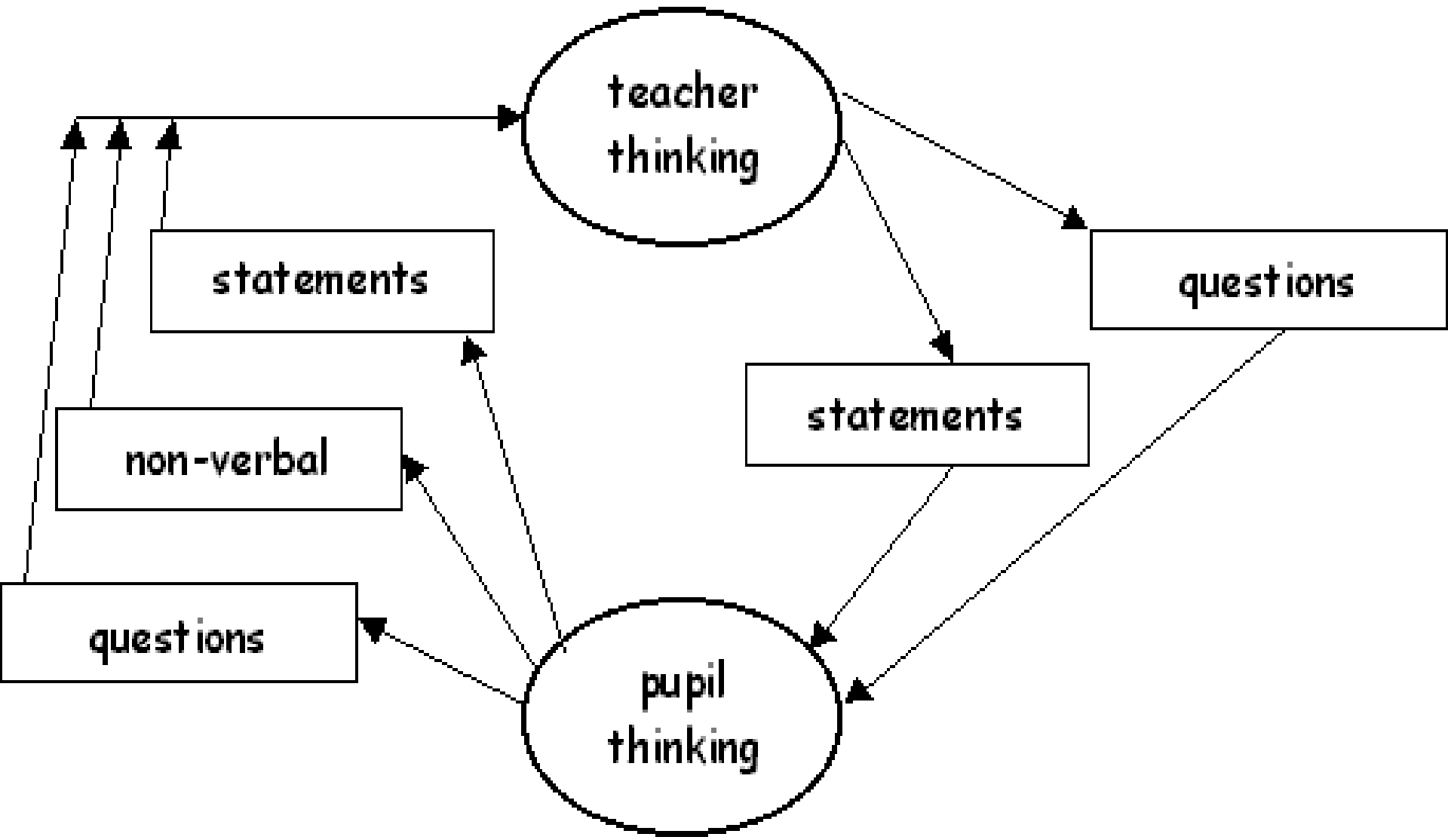
## 2. HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS:-

- *Address question to the whole class so as to secure attention of all and to provide opportunity to all.*
- *Allow sufficient time to think.*
- *Do not repeat question unnecessarily.*
- *Do not change the structure of the question.*
- *Ask only relevant questions.*
- *Ask well graded questions.*
- *Occasionally ask questions to back benchers.*
- *Ask questions in such a manner as not to suggest the answer.*
- *Do not accept the first correct answer. Pass on and ask more students to make sure how far the others know it.*
- *Audible to all.*
- *Be jovial and cheerful.*

## ***CHARACTERISTICS OF QUESTIONING:-***

- ***Clarity.***
- ***Simplicity.***
- ***Specific.***
- ***Challenging.***
- ***Relevancy.***
- ***Single idea.***
- ***Avoid yes or no response***
- ***Not leading***
- ***Definite purpose.***

**[consider the following model of the process Woollard (2002)]**



***Thank you***