

Cognitive Thinking Question Examples

Source: Book: 50 Strategies to Boost Cognitive Engagement, Rebecca Stobaugh, Solution Tree Press, 2019

Remember	
Recognize	Recall
From these choices, who are the characters in the story/text?	Who are the characters in the story/text?
From these choices, when does this story/text take place?	When does this story/text take place?
From these choices, where does this story/text take place?	Where does this story/text take place?
From these choices, what are the events in the story/text?	What are the events in the story/text?
From these choices, what are the facts in the text?	What are the facts in the text?

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Understand						
Interpret	Exemplify	Classify	Summarize	Infer	Compare	Explain
Can you say _____ in a different way? What does _____ mean? How would you describe _____ to another person? Define _____ in your own words. What does _____ look like?	What is another example of _____? What is an example of _____ in your life?	What is _____ an example of? How might you sort _____ into groups or categories? What criteria determine the groups or categories?	What is the main idea of the reading? Can you summarize what you just read? Describe an alternative title for the reading. What did the character learn at the end of the story?	What are the implications of _____? Why did the author do _____? How is this connected to _____? What do you think will happen next? What are ways _____ could positively and negatively impact other _____?	How is _____ like _____? Why is _____ like _____? Can you distinguish between _____ and _____? How are _____ and _____ different? Describe the differences between _____ and _____.	Given what you already know, what will happen next? Predict the effects or implications of _____. Describe what might have caused _____ to happen. Why did _____ do what he or she did? How would you change _____?

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Apply	
Execute	Implement
Using the procedures you learned, how would you solve _____?	Which procedure would you use to solve _____?
How can you apply this procedure to different tasks?	How could you change or improve the procedure and still solve _____?

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Analyze		
Differentiate	Organize	Attribute
What information do you need to solve _____? What facts in the source support _____? What is the most important piece of evidence? What data or information do you have to back this up?	What familiar pattern do you notice? How could you organize or combine these ideas? How would you combine, or organize, _____ and _____?	Which is fact, opinion, or inference? What are the motives behind _____? What are the reasons for the perspectives present in the reading? How would this look from the viewpoint of _____? What is the author's point of view? What assumptions must we make to accept that conclusion? Would you rather be _____ or _____? Why? Would you like to be _____? Why or why not?

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Evaluate	
Check	Critique
How could we verify _____ was true?	Use evidence to appraise, critique, judge, or evaluate _____.
Is _____ always true?	Why is _____ successful or unsuccessful? What is your evidence?
Why do you believe _____?	Could _____ be better? Why or why not?
How strong are the source's arguments?	How would you rate or judge _____?
Is there a defect in any of the data or evidence the source provides?	What choice would you have made and why?
What are the reasons for the claim?	What are the arguments for and against _____?
How credible is that claim?	What are the advantages or disadvantages of _____?
What is your basis for saying _____?	Are there any undesirable consequences that we can and should foresee?
How can we check to see if this argument is accurate?	Explain what criteria you would use to evaluate which is the best option.
What are the strengths and weaknesses of this piece of evidence?	
Do we need additional information?	How effective is _____?

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Create		
Generate	Plan	Produce
What are some alternatives to solving this problem that we haven't yet explored? For this problem, what do you think would happen if ____? Why?	What steps would you take to implement your plan?	What do you need to achieve the best result?

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Remember	
Recognize	From these choices, who are the characters in the story/text? From these choices, when does this story/text take place? From these choices, where does this story/text take place? From these choices, what are the events in the story/text? From these choices, what are the facts in the text?
Recall	Who are the characters in the story/text? When does this story/text take place? Where does this story/text take place? What are the events in the story/text? What are the facts in the text?
Understand	
Interpret	Can you say _____ in a different way? What does _____ mean? How would you describe _____ to another person? Define _____ in your own words. What does _____ look like?
Exemplify	What is another example of _____? What is an example of _____ in your life?
Classify	What is _____ an example of? How might you sort _____ into groups or categories? What criteria determine the groups or categories?
Summarize	What is the main idea of the reading? Can you summarize what you just read? Describe an alternative title for the reading. What did the character learn at the end of the story?
Infer	What are the implications of _____? Why did the author do _____? How is this connected to _____? What do you think will happen next? What are ways _____ could positively and negatively impact other _____?
Compare	How is _____ like _____? Why is _____ like _____? Can you distinguish between _____ and _____?

	How are _____ and _____ different? Describe the differences between _____ and _____.
Explain	Given what you already know, what will happen next? Predict the effects or implications of _____. Describe what might have caused _____ to happen. Why did _____ do what he or she did? How would you change _____?

Apply	
Execute	Using the procedures you learned, how would you solve _____? How can you apply this procedure to different tasks?
Implement	Which procedure would you use to solve _____? How could you change or improve the procedure and still solve _____?

Analyze	
Differentiate	What information do you need to solve _____? What facts in the source support _____? What is the most important piece of evidence? What data or information do you have to back this up?
Organize	What familiar pattern do you notice? How could you organize or combine these ideas? How would you combine, or organize, _____ and _____?
Attribute	Which is fact, opinion, or inference? What are the motives behind _____? What are the reasons for the perspectives present in the reading? How would this look from the viewpoint of _____? What is the author's point of view? What assumptions must we make to accept that conclusion? Would you rather be _____ or _____? Why? Would you like to be _____? Why or why not?

Evaluate	
Check	How could we verify _____ was true? Is _____ always true? Why do you believe _____? How strong are the source's arguments? Is there a defect in any of the data or evidence the source provides? What are the reasons for the claim? How credible is that claim? What is your basis for saying _____?

	How can we check to see if this argument is accurate? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this piece of evidence? Do we need additional information?
Critique	Use evidence to appraise, critique, judge, or evaluate ____. Why is ____ successful or unsuccessful? What is your evidence? Could ____ be better? Why or why not? How would you rate or judge ____? What choice would you have made and why? What are the arguments for and against ____? What are the advantages or disadvantages of ____? Are there any undesirable consequences that we can and should foresee? Explain what criteria you would use to evaluate which is the best option. How effective is ____?

Create	
Generate	What are some alternatives to solving this problem that we haven't yet explored? For this problem, what do you think would happen if ____? Why?
Plan	What steps would you take to implement your plan?
Produce	What do you need to achieve the best result?