

Blank's Levels of Questioning is a questioning framework developed by Marion Blank, a renowned psychologist. There are four levels of questioning which move from simple, concrete questions to more difficult, abstract questions. Blank's questions encourage development of general language and vocabulary as well as skills in comprehension, reasoning, inferencing, predicting and problem solving (Blank, 2000).

Blank's Levels of Questions - Level 1: Matching Perception

- Focus is on objects in the student's immediate environment and requires concrete thinking.
- Responses can be short or nonverbal (e.g. pointing).
- Understanding of these questions develop around 3 years of age.

Level 1 questions:

- What is this? (Point to the bed)
- Who is this? (Point to Max)
- What is Max doing?
- Say this "monster" (Imitation)
- What did you see? (Remembering items in the book)

Blank's Levels of Questions - Level 2: Selective Analysis of Perception

- Questions about details of objects known to a child but are not necessarily visible at time of questioning.
- Involves analysis such as grouping objects, describing and understanding object functions.
- Understanding of these questions develop around 4 years of age.

Level 2 questions:

- Where are the monsters? (Remembering information)
- What do the monsters look like? (Describing objects)
- What do you use a boat for? (Identifying object functions)
- How are Max and the monsters different?

Blank's Levels of Questions - Level 3: Reordering Perception

- Questions are not about direct objects.
- The answers require listeners to use their own knowledge and higher order thinking. It requires the listener to make basic predictions, assume the role of another or make generalisations.
- Understanding of these questions develop around 4 ½ years of age.

Level 3 questions:

- What will happen next?
- What is a crown? (Definition)
- Find one to use with this.
- Find the things that are not _____.
- What could Max say? (Assuming the role of another person)
- How are Max and the Monsters the same? (Identifying similarities)

Blank's Levels of Questions - Level 4: Reasoning about perception

- Questions are not about direct objects.
- The answer requires listeners to use reasoning and draw on past experiences. It requires the listener to problem solve, predict, and provide explanations.
- Understanding of these questions develop around 5 years of age.

Level 4 questions:

- What will happen if Max returns to the forest? (Predicting)
- Why did Max use a boat ? (Justifying cause of event)
- What could Max use to get to the forest instead of a boat? (Solution)
- Why could Max use _____ ? (Explaining means to goal)
- Why is a boat made of wood? (Explaining construction of objects)