

APPLYING QUESTIONING TECHNIQUES: OBSERVER ROLE CARD

Please read this carefully

The task

The teacher or trainer has set the group of learners an exercise. The learners undertake the exercise then come together as a group to discuss issues. The teacher or trainer then questions the learners about the exercise.

Please note that the group exercise is only creating an opportunity for the questioning role-play that follows. The purpose of the exercise, and any associated tasks, is to ensure that all those in the role of learner have a common learning experience on which to be questioned.

Teaching and learning objectives

The role-play teacher or trainer has set the exercise and the objectives for the session. You may want to write them in the space below to remind yourself of them.

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Your role

Your role is:

Stage 1 – group exercise

- To observe the group whilst they're doing the exercise.
- To help the teacher or trainer prepare questions and questioning techniques whilst the learners are doing the exercise.

Stage 2 – role play

- To observe and record the teacher's or trainer's questions and questioning techniques.
- To provide feedback to the teacher or trainer in the plenary session after the role-play.

While observing, you should consider:

- Which types of questioning techniques work best?
- Why some do not work as well as others?
- If certain questioning techniques are not working, does the teacher or trainer adapt their style to suit the needs of the learners within the group?
- Is this effective?

You should also look out for the techniques used by the teacher or trainer if any of the following happen:

- one member dominates in the group;
- some members don't participate;
- a member gives one-word answers;
- a member gives a completely wrong answer.

Record your observations on the grid you have been given.

Plenary discussion

Once the role-play is completed, the person who has been in the role of the teacher or trainer will reflect on the techniques they used and how they feel the learners responded.

The learners will compare their feelings with those of the teacher or trainer. You'll be asked to share your observations with the group. You are supporting the teacher or trainer and the group in evaluating the questioning techniques and their impact. Use the notes you've recorded on your grid to give evidence

and examples.

Do you think the group achieved any of the learning objectives?

Did the teacher or trainer find out whether all members of the group had achieved the learning objectives?