

Support units: Professional practice  
Illustration 1: Questioning

## Exploring questions further

### Good questions

Bill Marsden provides a list of instructions about questions in the geography classroom. He maintains that 'good practice' requires:

- asking questions fluently and precisely
- gearing questions to the student's state of readiness
- involving a wide range of students in the question and answer process
- focusing questions on a wide range of intellectual skills, and not just recall
- asking probing questions
- not accepting each answer as of equal validity, through sensitivity
- redirecting questioning to allow accurate and relevant answers to emerge
- using open-ended as well as closed questions so that creative thought and value judgements are invited.

Source: Marsden, W. (1995). *Geography 11–16: Rekindling good practice*. London: David Fulton, p. 94.

### Asking more interesting questions

Some more interesting questions that can be asked about the **Australian Curriculum: Geography** <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Geography/Rationale> in years 7 to 10 include:

- How successful are China's policies to spread development to its western regions?
- What is the effect of rock type on desert landforms?
- How has life improved for recent overseas migrants to Australian country towns?
- How environmentally sustainable are contemporary rice growing practices in Southeast Asia?
- Why do geographers disagree about the challenges to world food security?
- What are our responsibilities with regards to human inequality?