

Questions to help evaluate the quality of student learning

Principals' observations need to focus on key details in the classroom that can provide insight into the quality of student learning and teacher instruction.

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS INCLUDE:

1. Can the students do the work the teacher has given them? If not, what changes can the teacher make?
2. Is the work appropriate — with enough rigor for a suitable stretch to cause learning? If not, how can it be improved?
3. What is the instructional task and is it worthwhile? What are its strengths and weaknesses?
4. How does the task align with the objective? What adjustments can be made, if any, to improve alignment?
5. Is the objective worthwhile? Why or why not?
6. How well can students explain the learning objective? Where can their understanding be improved?
7. How well can students describe their learning?

Source: Adapted from Jon Saphier and Kim Marshall.