

Planned Assessment Opportunities - Secondary

By Ashley Philipson

Assessment is an essential part of every lesson and should be present throughout. Although the form in which it takes place may vary depending on the stage of pupils' learning and the tasks they are completing. Without assessment, lessons cannot identify and address pupils' needs.

In a series of lessons, we were looking at the issue of the development gap. The development gap is the difference in levels of development between the richest and poorest countries in the world. I wanted to plan an opportunity to assess whether pupils could recall the strategies we had previously covered before progressing with new material.

In order to check pupils' deeper understanding, I planned to ask them to recall one strategy and give an example of how this strategy is used. I knew that by asking them to explain how it is being used, I could uncover any misconceptions they may have about the strategies they recalled. I planned to check their understanding of this at the beginning of the lesson where the outcome was for pupils to evaluate the success of strategies used to reduce the development gap. I knew that they needed the prior knowledge of what different strategies could be used before they could evaluate their success.

I embedded retrieval practice into the beginning of the lesson with a settling task which pupils had to complete as soon as they entered the lesson. This retrieval practice would give me an insight of how much foundational knowledge the pupils could recall from the previous lesson.