



# Questions and Prompts

## Exemplifying, Specialising

Describe/demonstrate/show/choose/  
draw one of ...  
Is there another?  
What's it like?  
Give me one/more examples of ...  
Is ... an example of ...?  
What makes ... an example?  
Can you find one that doesn't ...?  
Are there any special ones?

## Completing, Deleting, Correcting

What *must* be  
added/removed/changed in order to  
allow/ensure/contradict ...?  
What *can* be added/removed/changed  
without affecting ...?  
Tell me what's wrong with ...  
What needs to be changed so  
that...?

## Comparing, Sorting, Organising

What's the same about ...?  
What's different about ...?  
Sort or organise these by ...  
Is it or is it not ...?

## Changing, Varying, Reversing, Altering

What happens if we change ...?  
What if ...?  
If this is the answer to a similar  
question, what was the question?  
Do ... in two or more ways.  
Which is the quickest/easiest ...?

## Generalising, Conjecturing

Of what is this an example?  
What happens in general?  
Can you say why this is special?  
What happened here? And here?  
Can you see a pattern?  
Is it always, sometimes, never ...?  
Describe all possible as succinctly  
as you can.  
What can change and what has to  
stay the same so that ... is still true?

## Explaining, Justifying, Verifying, Convincing, Refuting

Explain why ...  
Give a reason (using or not using ...)  
How can we be sure that ...?  
Tell me what is wrong with ...  
Is it ever false that ...? (always true  
that ...?)  
How is ... used in ...?  
Explain the role/use of ...

Adapted from Jeffcoat, M., Jones, M., Mansergh, J., Mason, J., Sewell, H. and Watson, A. (2004) *Primary Questions and Prompts*. Derby: Association of Teachers of Mathematics.

(See also Watson, A. & Mason, J. (1998) *Questions and Prompts for Mathematical Thinking*. Derby: Association of Teachers of Mathematics.)