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the Earth**

## Teaching methods

In order to choose an appropriate teaching method / strategy for your group and subject, it is important that you are familiar with each. The following is a list of the most common teaching methods and a brief description of each.

<b>Method</b>	<b>Description</b>
Lecture	This involves the teacher or group leader telling the students information, it is <b>not</b> an interactive teaching method and there is usually no opportunity for feedback. Lectures <b>must</b> be properly planned and prepared for to ensure their success and <b>must</b> be supported by other methods that will assess whether learning has taken place.
Question and answer (Q&A)	Posing a series of questions to students in order to encourage thinking and to establish / assess understanding. It is an ideal method to accompany lecture and is commonly used as an assessment method.
Group discussion	Students are actively involved in talking to each other about a certain idea or topic. The teachers' job is to manage / facilitate the discussion so that learning takes place. Discussion is a good method for encouraging student participation.
Debate	Similar to discussion but more structured. Traditionally it involves choosing a topic that has a strong argument for and against, and splitting the class / group with one side presenting the case for and the other presenting the case against. Debates can be incredibly thought provoking and are great for developing students' communication skills, but they are time consuming and staff skill is essential to facilitate the process.
Demonstration	Normally used to demonstrate a practical skill after which the students will carry out a practical session (see below) i.e. practice the skill by repeating what they have seen.
Practical	Individual practice – learning by doing.
Individual learning	Reading / research / homework – self-motivated.
Seminar	<b>Student lead</b> presentation and / or group discussion.
Case study	An examination of a real or simulated problem, which is structured so that learning can take place or be reinforced.
Role play	Act out a situation e.g. public meeting to discuss the planning of a new supermarket. Role plays are good for developing opinions and encouraging students to look at a situation through a new perspective. Great for practicing communication skills and provides an opportunity to assess learning.
Project / assignment	Usually involves individual work. Students are given a topic on which to write or verbally produce a report, often requires research. It is a popular and effective assessment method.