

Classification to support students to engage with learning in the physically distanced classroom and to engage with learning from home



By developing their ability to classify information either in the classroom or from home, students develop a greater understanding of the topic in hand, thus enabling them to apply the information to higher-order questions.

Classification in the physically distanced classroom

The teacher identifies several categories within a specified topic. The teacher asks students to draw a table in their copies or open a spreadsheet on their mobile device. Depending on the number of categories and specific features of each category students create columns and rows. The number of columns, 2 or more, will depend on the number of categories within the topic. Students, in a physically distant classroom, are then asked to classify the distinguishing features under the correct category heading. Students should be able to defend their choices, identify items that do not fit and explain their reasoning. This is a useful strategy to use at the beginning of a lesson to test prior knowledge or after learning about categories and classification or when a unit is completed to review concepts and terms. Structuring this activity in distant social groups provides a means of improved communication and organisation of information for students.

Classification while engaging with learning from home

Students under the guidance of the teacher will identify the features that distinguish one category from another e.g. Irish History: Hunter-Gatherers and the First Farmers nomadic v settled, Temporary dwellings v Wattle and Daub houses, Wild nuts and berries vs Cultivated crops. Using their copies or a spreadsheet application, students identify the main features with an identified category. Students work can send completed work to their teacher via their chosen online platform. From home, classification can be used as a teaching strategy that is central to all the sciences. It is also relevant to aspects of history, geography, home-economics. The teacher can form online meeting groups using Teams (Office 365) that will provide a means of improving communication and organisation of information for students. The teacher can join each online meeting providing guidance and ensuring students are on task. As part of this online engagement, the teacher can further develop students understanding once they have classified the items into groups by asking them to identify the features that distinguish one category from another. This task can form the final step in the assignment.

***Classification can be used to support Teaching, Learning and Assessment in all subjects as well as the Level 1 Learning Programmes (L1LPs) and the Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs)**

Key Skills

- Managing information and thinking
- Managing Myself
- Being literate
- Being creative

Assessment

- Observe student understanding of material and inform future lessons

Inclusion of all Learners

- Chunking of information
- Encourage varied responses write, draw, record/type
- Graphic organiser
- Can highlight prior knowledge/area of interest within a topic
- Multi-lingual
- Quick to model
- Specific to individual
- Supports Self-Assessment
- Can be completed in small groups, pairs or individually
- A pre teaching support focusing on key words or concepts
- A basis for extension activities post lesson

Resources

- One to one digital devices with internet connection



Further Information

https://jct.ie/wholeschool/classroom_strategies

[L1LPs/L2LPs](#)

