

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

Sioux Values and Beliefs

6. Questions I

History is all about answering questions. Every sentence in your textbooks come from historians wanting to understand what was going on, asking questions of the sources, and – sometimes amidst a great deal of contention – coming up with suggested answers.

The basic question types are:

What? – eg in the Edexcel exam: “Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the conflict with the Plains Indians.”

Why? – eg in the AQA exam: “Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about the defeat of the Plains Indians?” or in the Edexcel exam: “Explain the importance of the buffalo for the Plains Indians.”

How? – eg in the AQA exam: “In what ways were the lives of the Plains Indians affected by the buffalo?”

Consequences? – eg in the Edexcel exam: “Explain two consequences of the Plains Indians’ religion and values for their lifestyle.”

Comparison? -- eg in the AQA exam: “Which of the following was the more important reason for the successful way of life of the Plains Indians: the buffalo herds or the Plains Indians’ beliefs and society?”

Using only the information on the webpage:

AQA students: invent 4 questions for each of the following question-styles:

- Describe two problems faced by _____.
- In what ways were the lives of _____ affected by _____.
- Which of the following was the more important reason for _____:
 - _____
 - _____.

Edexcel students: invent 4 questions for each of the following question-styles:

- Explain two consequences of _____.
- Write a narrative account analysing _____?
- Explain the importance of _____ for _____.