Overview of question types

1 Describe

- Aim: map a phenomenon.
- Answer: a number of characteristics, elements, phases, aspects, and the like.
- Examples: What are the characteristics? What features does it have? What elements does it consist of? Who or what is involved in it? What are the main phases? What does it look like?

2 Compare

- Aim: determine what the differences and/or similarities are between two or more phenomena.
- Answer: an overview of the differences and/or similarities.
- Examples: What are the differences? What are the similarities? In what ways do they differ? Which aspects are similar?

3 Define

- Aim: determine the relationship between a phenomenon and a certain class.
- Answer: a statement on the extent to which a phenomenon may or may not be classified in a certain way.
- Examples: How can it be classified? Does it belong in this family? How can it be defined? What is it an example of?

4 Evaluate

- Aim: assess one or more research elements against a certain standard.
- Answer: a statement about the positive and/or negative characteristics of the phenomenon.
- Examples: What is the value of it? How well does it work? What are the positive and/or negative aspects? How suitable is it? How useful is it? What are the advantages or disadvantages?

5 Explain

- Aim: find out what causes a phenomenon.
- Answer: a statement about the causes of a phenomenon.
- Examples: How come? What caused it? What is this a result of? How could this have happened?

6 Predict

- Aim: assess what will happen next.
- Answer: a statement about the events you may expect in the future.
- Examples: What will this lead to? What can we expect? What should we be prepared for?

7 Design or advise

- Aim: propose a measure or interference that may solve or reduce a problem or that may achieve a goal.
- Answer: a reasoned solution.
- Examples: What can be done about it? How can it be improved? How should we ...? What are appropriate measures? What should be done and what should not?