

Activity 1.4 Question topics out of a bag

First year undergraduates, first term

<p>Who most inspired you to learn?</p>	<p>Why did you choose this subject and why this university?</p>	<p>What do you want to do with this degree when you have finished?</p>
<p>What kind of teacher-student relationship have you been used to in the past eg formal/informal, should agree with/don't need to agree with, etc?</p>	<p>What type of learning are you used to, eg big group/ small group active/receptive, theory-based/ practice-based, etc?</p>	<p>How would you describe the way you like to learn?</p>
<p>How have you normally worked with your fellow students/ classmates?</p>	<p>What has surprised you most so far about learning in the university?</p>	<p>Have you worked a lot with people from other cultures before?</p>

Activity 1.4 Question topics out of a bag

Second year undergraduates who don't know each other

<p>Who most inspired you to learn in the last five years?</p>	<p>Why did you choose this subject?</p>	<p>What has surprised you most about learning in the university until now?</p>
<p>What aspect of learning at this university do you find most difficult eg self-study, small group work, etc?</p>	<p>Have you learned from working with people from other cultures? And if so, what have you learned?</p>	<p>What helps you study well in small groups like this?</p>
<p>What do you do apart from study at the moment?</p>	<p>What do you enjoy about learning in this university?</p>	<p>What do your friends/family think of you studying this subject?</p>

Scenario 1

A group of seven students (four home, two Chinese and one Indonesian student) were assigned to work together by their tutor on a research task. The project was to end in a 10-minute presentation. The students were to be marked on the structure and innovation of their presentation, as well as the quality of their research.

At their first planning meeting, the student from Indonesia is 20 minutes late, so while they are waiting one of the UK students suggests that they go round and find out more about each other's research interests. Once the Indonesian student has arrived the same UK student suggests that they write out an agenda of what they want to cover at the meeting. As the UK students make more suggestions in the discussions, he makes a joke that "it's four points to Europe, one point to Asia. Come on Asia!".

As the group is discussing what methodology they should use the two Chinese students start talking to each other in Mandarin. One of the UK students reminds the group that everything should be said to everyone so no-one misses out on anything. The older Chinese student who speaks better English says he was just explaining something. The UK student replies very softly that it's fine to ask them a question if they don't understand something.

When they finally get to talking about the presentation it is agreed by all it seems that only the UK students should present. Those who express their views feel that the UK students can fit more in and do it more accurately. One of the UK students comments that it's good to play to everyone's strengths.

Scenario 2

A tutor has asked all her students in her seminar group to try out a study group this term. She feels it is important for students to have an international perspective on this area of study so has deliberately, and openly, mixed up the students in terms of nationality.

One of the groups is made up of three UK students, one Indian student, one South African and one Greek student. Their first task is to decide when, where and how often they are going to meet and then to decide some basic ground rules for the group. (They are given some seminar time to do this).

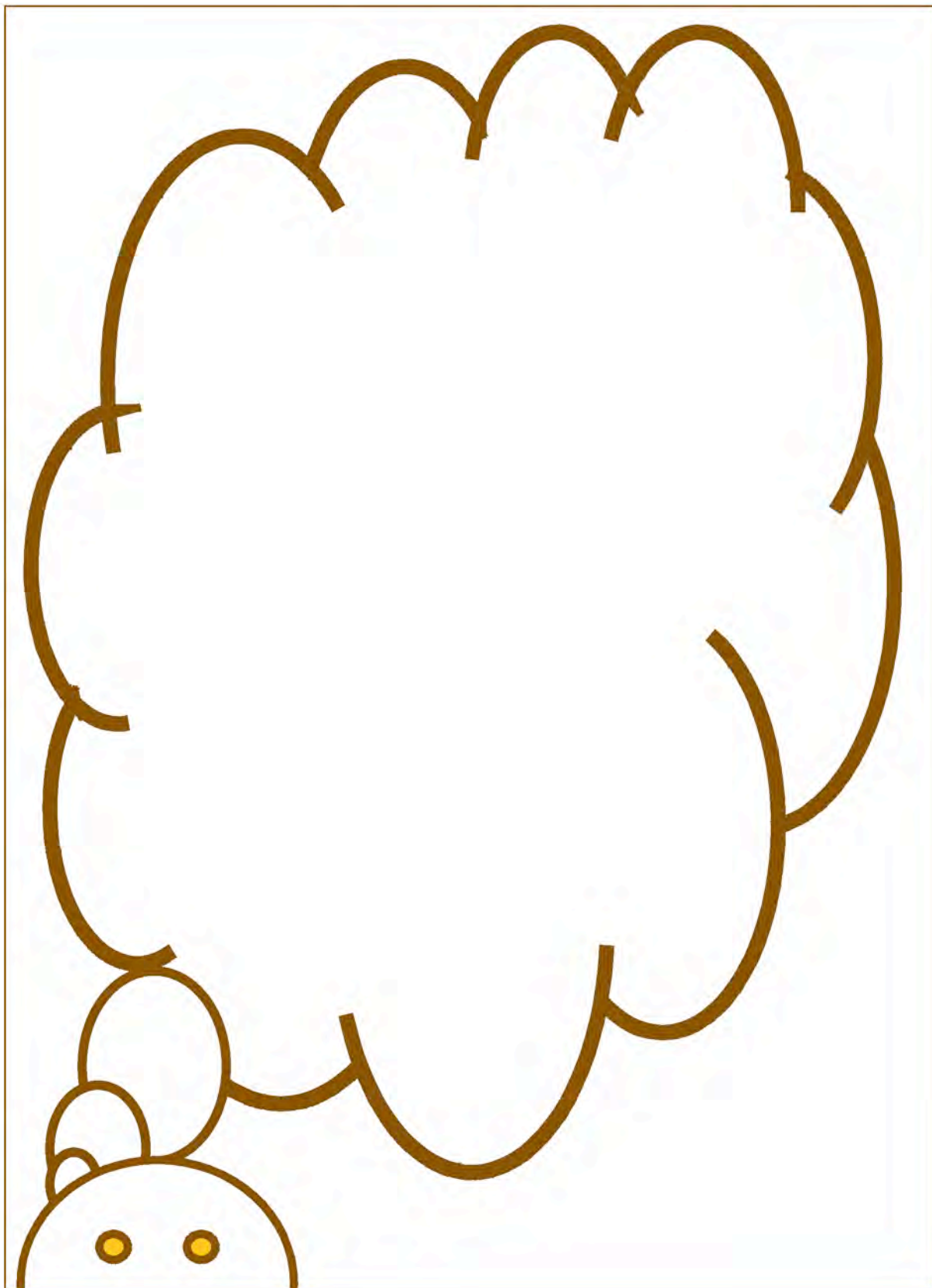
One of the UK students suggests meeting in the Union bar as there are always large tables and in the day it is never that busy, although she admits it is a bit “grungy”. The student from Greece suggests Thursday afternoons and everyone agrees they are free then. One student mentions they volunteer once a month though at that time so could they make one meeting per month a 7pm start. The Greek student says “OK – fine! So that’s agreed then let’s move onto the ground rules, shall we?”

The South African student then outlines his ideas on what he thinks the group needs to do in order to “co-operate effectively and efficiently together for the sake of our learning”. He takes a while to express his thoughts and uses quite formal English. The UK students look quite uncomfortable towards the end of this speech. The Indian student says “Wow – what an ideator! Can I add one agenda item?” One of the UK students asks her to repeat herself as they didn’t catch what she said. She repeats what she said; the UK student flushes slightly and looks a bit confused, but doesn’t say anything.

Activity 3.3 Interviews icebreaker

<p>1. Find someone who comes from a different country to you (or even better from a different continent!) and ask them to tell you about three key values in their culture. (They can define what they mean by their culture).</p>	<p>2. Find someone whose appearance is completely different to yours and ask them to tell you what you should know about their hometown before you visit.</p>
<p>3. Find someone who was born a long way from you and ask them to tell you about their first impressions of this university and the surrounding community.</p>	<p>4. Find someone who has or comes from a different faith/belief systems background to you and ask them to tell you about three key values in their faith/belief system.</p>

Activity 3.4 How's it been?



Activity 4.3 mini-scenarios

1.

One of the students who lives on your floor looks a bit Chinese but you have never been sure. After six weeks, both of you are in the kitchen and he is cooking. You try to make conversation by asking what he is cooking. He says it's something they cook back home in Brunei. You don't know what to say because you don't know anything about Brunei. In fact, you are not even sure where it is so you find you don't know what to say next. In fear of looking stupid you just walk away saying 'Oh – right! Interesting!'.

2.

One of your friends has just decided to wear the Hijab. You and your other close friend are really shocked as she has always been really liberal and open-minded, although you've never really talked much about religion before. You both decide to talk to her about it when you next see her as she always likes to be challenged.

Over a coffee you ask her whether or not she thinks wearing a headscarf isn't just a backward step for women. Doesn't it just symbolise men's control over women's sexuality?

3.

At Freshers week you noticed a Japanese society stand. You meant to go and have a look and find out more as you've always had an interest in Japan but don't know much about it. (You've even thought about going to work out there). You couldn't see any non-Japanese anywhere near the stand though and you wondered if it was just a support society for Japanese students.

It is now your second year and you have vaguely started looking at doing a teaching job in Japan when you finish your degree as you would like to take a gap year. You are planning to get some books out of the library and start researching more about the culture.

4.

In one of your seminar groups, there is a group of four Country X nationality students. They are not unfriendly and always smile at you but they are always talking together and you cannot catch what they say. You would like to get to know them as you are always interested in meeting people from different places but it is hard to find a chance to engage with them.

5.

You live in a large house with students from a number of backgrounds. After three weeks of living together you feel that you have not got to know each other very well so you put an invitation under everyone's door inviting them to come for a drink at 8pm tomorrow at your local pub. One of your housemates says they can't come as they don't like alcohol. You reassure them that they don't need to drink and that it would just be really nice to all sit and chat together.

Activity 5.2 How others perceive us

