Activity Sheet 3: Exploring open questions

Future skills: Powerful influencer

Employability skills: Preparing for a discussion in the workplace

Most successful EPQs take the form of a response to an open question or practical challenge. An open question is one where there is more than one possible answer.

It is easy to think that learning is simply a matter of ‘knowing the right answer’. However, many of the most important questions in life and work are open – there is no single right answer– and so we have to learn to think for ourselves. Part of this process involves listening to and learning from the ideas of others.

This activity is designed to help you begin thinking with others about a series of open questions related to the future of work.

Task 1 Exploring open questions

Sit in a group of up to 12 students. Decide among yourselves which of the following questions you would like to discuss (you can vote for the one you prefer, and then opt to discuss the top three).

In your group discussion, aim to reply to points made by other people, either by *adding* to what they have said or *challenging* them. Try to start your contributions with: ‘I would like to add to…’, or ‘I would like to challenge…’

Questions about work in the future

1. Will robots take over most jobs?
2. Should businesses be doing more to protect the environment?
3. What is the key to a successful business?
4. Should there be a total ban on plastic?
5. Should all companies have equal numbers of male and female leaders?
6. Does it matter if we lose high street stores and end up doing all our shopping online?
7. What are the most important skills that schools should be teaching to prepare young people for the future?
8. Is creativity something you can teach?
9. What is the key to making an advertising campaign work well?
10. Whose fault is it if a business fails?
11. What is the most important quality in a business leader?
12. Is the way you present yourself as important as what you say?

Task 2 From question to project

Discuss in pairs whether you could use one of these questions as a starting point for your EPQ.

How would you develop it into a project? Would you write a project, prepare for a performance or produce an artefact?