
Planning lessons for 21st century learners

Webinar handout

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A good lesson plan helps with:

1. Learning: Structured lessons improve student comprehension and lesson mastery.
2. Students Engagement: Captures students' interest through engaging activities.
3. Time Management: Efficiently allocates time for each lesson component to cover all necessary content.
4. Assessment Alignment: Ensures assessments match lesson content and provides clear evaluation criteria.
5. Resource Utilization: Helps teachers gather necessary materials in advance.

Important elements in a lesson plan

Introduction/warmer activity: Capture students' attention and provide an overview of what the lesson will cover.

Objective/Learning Outcome: Clearly state what students should be able to achieve or learn by the end of the lesson.

Materials and Resources: List all materials, textbooks, technology, and resources needed for the lesson.

Assessment of Prior Knowledge: Determine what students already know related to the topic to tailor your instruction accordingly.

Presentation: Step by Step outline of activities for the lesson.

Evaluation: Describe how you'll assess students' understanding, whether through quizzes, discussions, projects, or other methods.

Differentiation: Explain how you'll adapt the lesson for diverse learners, including those with special needs or varying abilities.

Conclusion: Summarize the key points of the lesson and connect them to the learning objectives.

Homework/Follow-up: Assign tasks or readings for students to reinforce their learning outside of class.

Reflection: Include a space for your own notes on what worked well and what could be improved for future lessons.

Essential skills of 21st century learning

These skills are seen as essential because they empower individuals to thrive in a rapidly changing world, where technology, globalization, and evolving societal needs require a broader skill set than traditional education alone can provide. They are often integrated into modern education frameworks to prepare students for success in various aspects of life, including education, careers, and social interactions. The 4 C's of 21st century learning are critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration. Other skills include problem solving, self-directed learning, financial literacy, resilience, global awareness, and leadership. The traits of 21st century learners can include being highly inquisitive, technology savvy, socially conscious, individualistic, and multimedia inclined.

How do I craft lessons for 21st century learners?

- Authentic and relevant- useful and practical activities
- Utilise multimedia/ media rich
- Optimally challenging
- Technology based- Gamification
- Discussion based
- Offer Relative autonomy

How do I involve my learners while planning?

- Use KWL charts
https://www.readwritethink.org/sites/default/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson924/kwl.pdf
- Create surveys and polls with tools like Mentimeter <https://www.mentimeter.com/>
- Administer questionnaires with tools like Forms <https://docs.google.com/forms>
- Co-create learning pathways.
- Carry out learners' needs analysis. Read more here: <https://www.englishclub.com/efl/tefl-articles/tips/needs-analysis/>

How do I encourage learner agency?

- Integrate learners' interests.

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- Give learners a voice- Class meetings, General Feedback
 - Give Choice: Vary topic, methods, interactions. Use Choice Boards
<https://visionaryteaching.com/choice-boards-a-powerful-way-to-engage-assess-your-students/>
 - Flip the class
 - Use personalised learning
 - Project-based learning
 - Encourage self evaluation- <https://aliceleung.net/2021/09/27/giving-time-for-students-to-think/> and use learning logs <https://edulearn2change.com/article-learning-logs-students/>

A recording of Hafsah and Rasheedat's webinar for World Teachers' Day 2023 can be watched here: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-events/world-teachers-day-2023/world-teachers-day-2023-saturday-7-october>