

## **A Guide to How to Ask Questions**

### Level One: Contextuals, Definitions, Clarifications, and Analyzers:

- How was X (an event/text/work) shaped by its time?
- Where did it originate and why?
- Who was its originator and what was he or she like?
- How do you define this word/term/idea/etc.?
- What does this passage/concept/etc. mean?
- What would be a specific, concrete example?
- What parts or features make up the whole of X and what does each part do?
- How do the parts contribute to the whole?
- How is this idea/concept organized and why is it organized that way?

### Level Two: Comparatives, Causals, and Evaluatives:

- How is X the same as that? How is it different? What is the opposite of X?
- How are these more or less similar?
- What factors caused X to happen?
- Which of these factors is sufficient? Which factors are contributing or probable?
- On what grounds can we eliminate possible causes or explanations?
- What are the most important features of X?
- Why do you like or dislike X (or agree or disagree)?
- How strong is the case that X is correct?
- What criteria are best for judging X?
- What is the best order of priority for these things and why?
- What is the strongest argument against X?

### Level Three: Counterfactuals, Extenders, Synthesizers:

- How would X change if this happened?
- How would things be different if X had not happened?
- How would things be different if X happened to a greater (or lesser) degree?
- How can we apply X to this set of circumstances?
- What can we predict if X is correct?
- What ideas should be added to X?
- What might happen if you added this to X?