

Types of Inductive Questions

Observation Questions

1. Text Based Questions - The answer comes straight out of the text itself.
2. Process or Order Questions – These focus on the step by step process of something, and the importance of a particular step leading to the next.
 - a. Ps. 28:7 – Trust comes before help
3. Repetition Questions – Focus on repetition within a text. Looking specifically at the number of times something appears. (Romans 7 – Members / Eph. 2 – Mystery / Revelation – Worship / Heb. 11 – Faith / 1 Cor. 15 – “If”)
4. Parallel Structure Questions – This is the “train track” method of bible study, that lines up parallel lines of the text (the tracks), so that specific conclusions can be drawn between each parallel idea (railroad ties)
5. Parallel Passage Questions – Is the same historical account, story, or parable repeated in another part of the bible?
6. Comparison Questions – These questions take two parts of a passage and drawing comparisons between them.
7. Contrast Questions – These questions take two parts of a passage and draw contrasts between them.
8. Question of Emphasis – How much of scripture is dedicated to a particular subject?
9. Questions on Questions – Why did a particular author or person ask a question. Questions are very important.
10. Italics Question – Look for words in italics in the English text. These indicate that a word has been inserted into the English text that is not in the original language.
11. Context – What does the context tell about this.
 - a. Linguistic
 - i. Word
 - ii. Phrase
 - iii. Sentence
 - iv. Thematic section
 - b. Book
 - i. Literary – Where is it located within the larger body of the text?
 - ii. Historical – When did this occur in time?
 - iii. Geographical – Where did this happen Geographically? Topographically?

- iv. Cultural – What was the culture like when this took place?
12. Emphasize Different words within the sentence – By emphasizing an individual word within a sentence, it can highlight it and bring new ideas to our mind.
 13. Quote Question – Is the author quoting from another part of scripture?
 - a. Example – Acts 4:25 → Quotes Psalms 2:1,2
 14. Linguistic Allusion Question –
 - a. Revelation 14:7 – Allusion to the 4th Commandment
 - b. Example – Acts 4:24 – Allusion to the 4th Commandment
 15. Imagery Allusion Question – Is there something that conjures up an image of another part of scripture. –
 - a. Example - Daniel 2 – Rock Falling on image / Jesus teaching – Whoever the rock falls on.
 16. Progression Question – Is there a progression within the text
 - a. General to Specific
 - i. Matt 6:1 – General Statement – Don’t do your righteousness
 1. 2-4 Doing good deeds
 2. 5-15 – Prayer
 3. 16-18 – Fasting
 4. 19-21 – Giving
 - ii. Genesis 1 – In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth
 17. Condition Based Questions – If / Then Statements
 - a. 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins...”
 18. Chain of Events Questions – Is there a chain of events?
 - a. Acts 7
 - i. Steven’s preaching → People angry
 - ii. People Angry → Stoned Steven
 - iii. Stoned Steven → He died
 - iv. After he died → Persecution arose
 - v. Persecution Arose → Disciples went everywhere
 - b. If you find a “therefore” it signifies a conclusion. Trace it backward.

Interpretation Questions

2. Language Questions
 - a. Articles
 - b. Verbs (tense, number)
 - i. List All Verbs

- ii. Pay Attention to the voice of all verbs (Active, Passive)
 - iii. Pay attention to the person of the verb
 - c. Pronouns
 - i. Pronouns Tracing – Trace the pronoun back to its antecedent.
 - ii. Pronoun Application – When a pronoun applies to more than one noun, make sure to take the time to apply it individually to each noun.
 - d. Prepositions
 - e. Number questions – Singular / Plural
- 3. Symbolic Interpretation Questions
 - a. How to Interpret Symbols
 - i. Literal Meaning First
 - ii. Use figurative when the passage tells you
 - 1. Jesus spoke a parable
 - iii. When literal meaning would be absurd?
 - iv. When a literal would be immoral?
 - v. When a literal would contradict another teaching?
- 4. Symbolic Reapplication Question – Plug the correct interpretation back into the prophecy and read it with its interpretation.
- 5. Definition Questions – Strongs Concordance to find the lexical definition
- 6. List questions – These questions happen when we see a list of things that need to be highlighted.
- 7. Importance based questions – Emphasizes the level of importance and priority that the author places on something.
- 8. Similar Verse Question – Are there similar verses in other parts of the bible that really help to highlight a specific truth?
- 9. Context Question – Focuses on the context of a (word, text, theme, book)
- 10. Logical (or) Self Evident Questions – These are questions that are based on simple logic or something that is obviously true. CAUTION: We have to be careful with this that we aren't putting our own ideas on the text.
- 11. Linguistic Word Questions – These questions dig down to the root meaning of a word.

- a. Example: 1 Tim. 3:16 – “Inspiration” - (from [2316](#) /*theós*, "God" and [4154](#) /*pnéō*, "breathe out")
12. Comparison Based Questions – Words “as” or “like” signify a metaphore.
- a. Psalms 142:1 – As the deer pants for the waters, so my soul longs for you.”
 - b. 1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow.”
13. Contrast Based Questions – “But” is a very powerful word that signifies a contrast.
- a. “But” is a very powerful word which indicates a huge shift.
 - b. 1 Cor. 6:9,10 – Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be no deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, or adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: **but** ye are washed, **but** ye are sanctified, **but** ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God.
 - c. Galatians 5:19-23 “The works of the flesh are.... But the fruit of the Spirit is....
14. Similar Approach Question – Where else is this same approach used?
- a. Example – Father with the demon possessed child, says to Jesus “If you can do anything...”. The only other person in the New Testament that comes to Jesus with an “if” statement is the devil in the wilderness.
15. Deeper Questions – These questions probe deeper into the implications of something.
- a. Many times these are brought out through the “Why” Question.
16. Original Audience – How would the original audience have heard this statement?
- a. Example – Matthew 6:25-31
 - i. Sowing, reaping, gathering – MEN
 - ii. Toiling, Spinning - WOMEN
17. Big Picture Question – What is the big picture of what is happening?
18. Opposite Question – What is the opposite of something?
- a. Example – What is the opposite of Fear? What is the opposite of a fool? What is the opposite of
19. Statement of Purpose Question – Is there an overarching purpose being stated.
- a. John 20:30,31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

Application

1. Substitution – When an interpretation is clear, put it back into the text.
2. Direct Application Question – Putting your name in the text
3. Character of God Question – What does this tell us about the Character of God?