

## **Socratic Starters Dice**

Adapted from:

Ryser, G., & McConnell, K. (2003).  
*Practical ideas that really work for  
students who are gifted.*  
Austin, Texas: Pro-Ed.

## **Tips**

- Avoid “yes / no” questions.
- Avoid the question, “Do you understand?” and replace it with a statement like, “Give me an example so I know that you understand.”
- Use both open-ended and closed questions, as well as clarifying questions.
- Allow enough wait time for students to think. They need time to consider the question as well as their response.

### **Questions to Clarify**

What do you mean by that?  
What is your main point?  
How else might you say that?  
What is an example of that?  
Could you explain your point further?  
Please summarise what you have just said.

### **Questions to Probe Assumptions**

What are you assuming?  
Why are you assuming that?  
What could we assume instead?  
How do you justify your position?  
Why would somebody assume that?  
Give me an example of when your assumption would be incorrect.

### **Questions to Probe Implications and Consequences**

When you say that, what are you implying?  
If you imply that, what are the consequences?  
If that happened, what else might happen? Why?

### **Questions to Probe Reason and Evidence**

Why do you think you are right?  
What are your reasons for saying that?  
Is there evidence to support that conclusion?  
How does that example apply to this situation?

### **Questions About the Question**

What is the meaning of your question?  
What does this question ask us to evaluate?  
How does this question relate to the issue?  
What other questions must you answer in order to answer this question?

### **Questions to Examine Viewpoints or Perspectives**

What is an alternative point of view?  
What is another way of saying that?  
Why might someone disagree?  
If someone disagreed with you, how would you try to convince them of your position?

## Evaluation:

Assess, Compare, Conclude,  
Contrast, Convince, Critique,  
Decide, Defend, Discriminate,  
Explain, Grade, Judge, Justify,  
Measure, Prioritise, Rank,  
Recommend, Select,  
Summarise, Support, Test,  
Validate.

## Analysis:

Analyse, Arrange, Break Down,  
Classify, Compare, Connect,  
Contrast, Deconstruct,  
Diagram, Divide, Explain,  
Infer, Order, Select,  
Separate, Sequence.

## Knowledge:

Collect, Define, Describe,  
Examine, Identify, Label, List,  
Match, Name, Outline, Quote,  
Recall, Recite, Recognise,  
Record, Select, Show, State,  
Tabulate, Tell.

## Application:

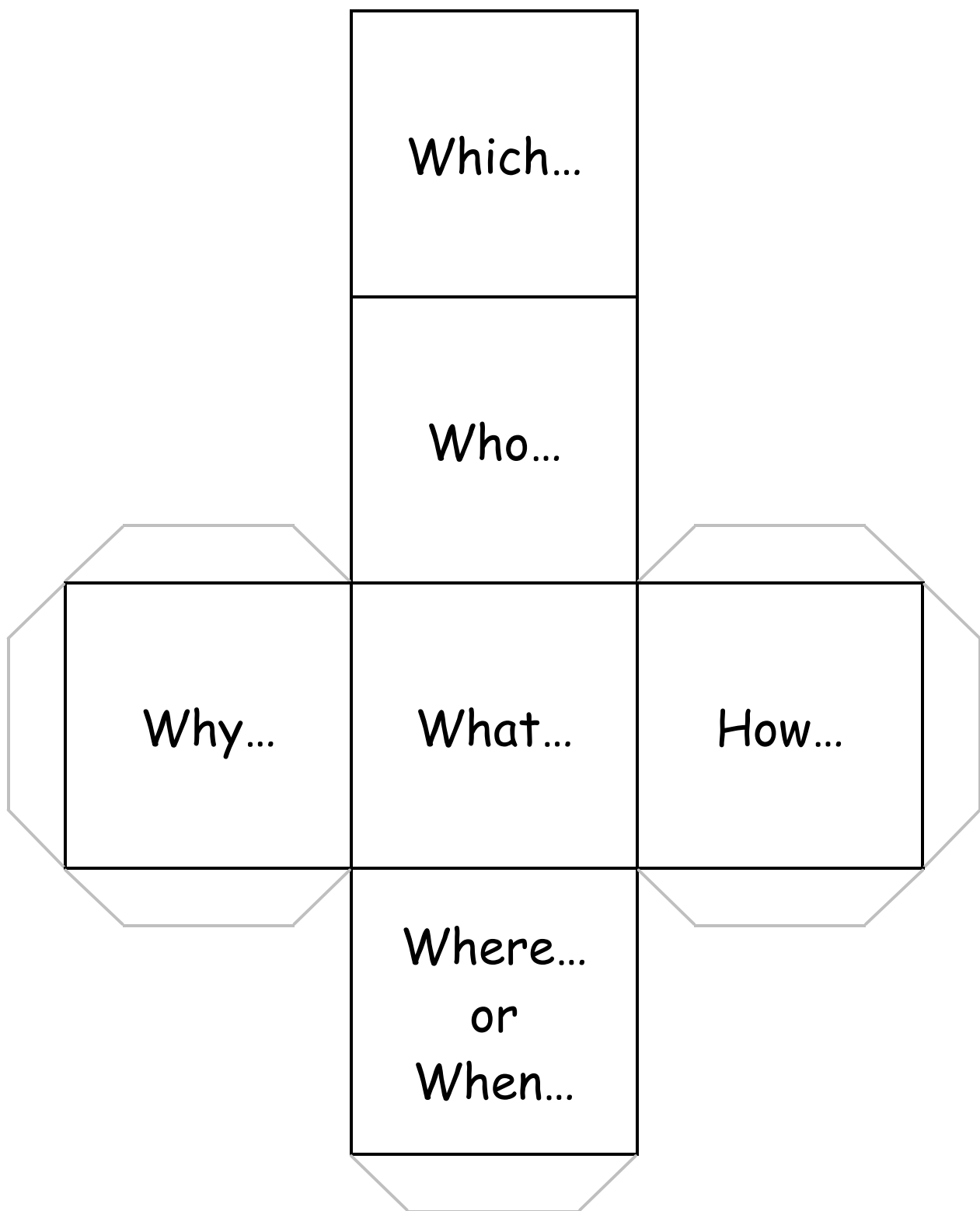
Apply, Calculate, Change,  
Classify, Complete, Compute,  
Demonstrate, Discover,  
Examine, Experiment,  
Illustrate, Infer, Manipulate,  
Modify, Operate, Prepare,  
Relate, Show, Solve.

## Synthesis:

Arrange, Build, Categorise,  
Combine, Compile, Compose,  
Conclude, Construct, Create,  
Design, Devise, Estimate,  
Formulate, Generalise,  
Generate, Integrate, Invent,  
Modify, Organise, Plan, Revise.

## Comprehension:

Associate, Cite, Contrast,  
Convert, Describe,  
Differentiate, Discuss,  
Distinguish, Explain, Extend,  
Interpret, Paraphrase,  
Predict, Restate, Summarise.



Which...

Who...

Why...

What...

How...

Where...  
or  
When...

