

Middle Leadership Mastery Pre-Reading Prompts

These questions are designed to be read before you read each chapter to help draw your attention to the most important aspects of each area. I hope that helps you to get the most out of Middle Leadership Mastery.

Chapter 1: Leading the curriculum

- What are the key differences between a knowledge-rich curriculum and a 21st-century skills curriculum?
- How can the curriculum be sequenced and evaluated effectively?
- What is the importance of having a clear curriculum ethos?
- How does the range and scope of the curriculum impact student learning?

Chapter 2: Leading teaching and learning

- How does the model of working memory influence teaching and learning?
- What are some effective routines that can contribute to successful lessons?
- Why did the 'expert visit' not contribute to teaching and learning as it was intended?
- What are the key principles and practices that underpin effective teaching and learning?

Chapter 3: Leading assessment

- What are the key theories of assessment that educators should understand?
- How do validity and reliability factor into effective assessment?
- How can an effective assessment system be built in a school setting?
- What role does workload play in the assessment process?

Chapter 4: Leading quality assurance

- What are some common proxies for learning and how can they be misleading?
- How can a school create an effective quality-assurance process?
- What are the dangers of gaming the system in the context of quality assurance?
- How can a school ensure that its quality assurance process is fair and accurate?

Chapter 5: Leading teacher development

- What are the common pitfalls in efforts to improve teaching and why don't they work?
- How can a culture of continuous improvement be fostered among teachers?
- What are desirable difficulties and how do they contribute to teacher development?
- What does the evidence say about effective strategies for teacher development?

Chapter 6: Decision making

- What are some common biases that can affect decision making in a school setting?
- How can the concept of opportunity cost:impact ratio guide decision making?
- What are the key considerations in delegating tasks and responsibilities?
- How can meetings be structured to maximize their effectiveness?

Chapter 7: Pastoral issues

- Why is it important to address pastoral issues in a school setting?
- How should educators handle students in corridor situations?
- What is transactional analysis and how can it be used in dealing with students?
- What strategies can be effective in dealing with parents and guardians?

Chapter 8: Leading others

- How can a school leader effectively manage department dynamics?
- What are some effective strategies for managing change in a school setting?
- How can the concept of the elephant, the rider, and the path guide leadership?
- What are some effective strategies for giving and receiving feedback?

Chapter 9: Wellbeing

- How does Adlerian psychology inform our understanding of wellbeing in a school setting?
- What changes can be made to improve wellbeing when the school environment cannot be changed?
- How can a school leader support a staff member in crisis?
- What are some key strategies for promoting wellbeing among staff and students?