400 Amazing Essential Inquiry Questions For Elementary & Secondary Students
CONTENTS:
1) Nature & The Environment
2) Civics, Freedom, & Government
3) The Arts
4) Language & Literature
5) History
6) Science & Space
7) Mathematics
8) Personal Development
1. What is the environment?
2. How does an environment function?
3. How do we affect our environment?
4. What relationship do we have with nature/the environment?
5. How can we live more sustainably?
6. How does the environment play a role in our daily lives?
7. How is our economy linked to the environment?
8. Does our understanding of the environment affect how we use it?
9. What happens when nature is disturbed?
10. What does the environment provide us with?
11. How do our lifestyles affect the environment?
12. How does technology affect the environment?
13. In what ways does wealth and/or poverty affect the environment?
14. What responsibilities do countries have to protect nature?
15. What habits have countries formed that are helping/harming nature?
16. How can we better understand the environment?
17. What can we do to help prevent further damage to the environment?
18. How do we talk about environmental issues?
19. How do our eating choices affect the environment?
20. What does climate change have to do with the environment?
21. Who is affected when there is a disturbance in nature?
22. What are short-term and/or long-term impacts of ___ on the environment?
23. How can we change ___ to create more environmental sustainability?
24. How does deforestation contribute to ___?
25. How do carbon footprints impact the environment?
26. Why is biodiversity important in the environment?
27. What would happen if biodiversity began to shrink?
28. How do greenhouse gases contribute to climate change?
29. What impact do food miles have on our environment?
30. What ways can renewable energy be implemented in our society?
31. Why is sustainable development important for our environment?
32. Why is it important to take care of our environment?
33. What impact can one person have on the environment?
34. Where do our resources and energy come from?
35. What happens when we disturb an ecosystem?
36. Who "owns" the environment?
37. How have our lifestyles affected the environment over time?
38. How do one country's actions affect the environment around the world?
39. Who affects environmental change?
40. How can we help support each other to fix the environmental problems we all face?
41. How does the environment affect our bodies?
42. How does nature heal us?
43. How can we change our production and consumption patterns to help heal nature?
44. How does the world's growing population affect the environment?
45. What responsibilities do citizens have to the environment?
46. What constitutes an environmental crisis?
47. How can future environmental issues be avoided?
48. What does a “perfect, balanced” environment look like?
49. How can we persuade others to take more care of the environment?
50. Why should people care more about nature?
1. What is freedom?
2. What does freedom look like?
3. How are freedom and responsibility related?
4. What role does the government play in our freedom?
5. When is restriction of freedom a good thing?
6. Should absolute freedom be possible?
7. Should individual rights and freedoms be limited by governments for the common good?
8. How should we balance individual rights and the common good?
9. Does religious freedom exist?
10. How can I be a responsible citizen?
11. What value do governments bring?
12. What makes a good citizen?
13. Why must citizens follow laws?
14. How can citizens improve the freedoms of other members of their community?
15. How have countries with restrictive freedoms been portrayed in the media?
16. What roles do citizens play in their communities?
17. Is there such a thing as the “perfect” citizen? What would one look like?
18. How did important citizens change their communities?
19. What does it mean to be an “engaged” citizen?
20. What links exist between people’s beliefs and their positions on civil issues?
21. What does it mean to have a political perspective?
22. Why is it important to consider and respect others’ perspectives?
23. What does the government owe us?
24. What do we owe the government?
25. Do citizens have an obligation to participate in society?
26. Does the government have an obligation to treat its citizens equally under the law?
27. Can a citizen still be “good” if they don’t follow the law?
28. Does equal always mean fair?
29. What makes a government work?
30. What is your idea of a democracy?
31. What happens when our idea of democracy is challenged?
32. How have governments improved or worsened over time?
33. What does it mean to participate in “civic action”?
34. What role does religion play in government?
35. What role should religion play in government?
36. How do citizens balance their religious freedoms with their civic responsibilities?
37. How have countries around the world dealt with different styles of government?
38. How are citizens rights protected?
39. What would happen if there was no government?
40. When does government authority become overreaching?
41. How important are laws to the well-being of a community?
42. How often should governments evaluate their laws and sanctions?
43. Do we have more or less freedom now than society did ___ years ago?
44. How do we know we are free?
45. Can some citizens in a community be more free than others?
46. What qualities would you like to see in a democratic society?
47. How can we understand someone who has different beliefs than us?
48. Should some citizens bear more responsibility in a society than others?
49. What qualifies or disqualifies someone from participating in a society?
50. Should citizens be required to participate in society in order to vote?
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<td>26. What is the function of art in our lives?</td>
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<td>27. Should artistic expression have limits?</td>
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<td>34. Why and how is music made?</td>
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<td>41. Why is beauty in the eye of the beholder?</td>
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<td>21. What is creativity and why is it important to cultures/societies?</td>
<td>46. What themes have remained consistent in dance for ages?</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>In what ways is language powerful?</td>
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<td>How is language used to change our thoughts or behaviours?</td>
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<td>How can you make reading “come alive”?</td>
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<td>What gives words power?</td>
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<td>Can fiction be true?</td>
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<td>What topics have authors written about for centuries?</td>
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<td>How has language evolved through the ages?</td>
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1. What do your parents and grandparents remember about their childhood?
2. What event(s) might have shaped your parents or grandparents’ upbringing?
3. How can historical photos, objects, and documents help us understand the past?
4. What legacy will ___ leave behind?
5. Where can we find stories about how ___ people lived?
6. How did ___ civilization live?
7. What stories show how ___ used to live?
8. What can a map tell us?
9. Why is it important to learn about history?
10. In what ways has history changed over time?
11. Can we belong to more than one culture?
12. How and why do people explore?
13. In what ways has learning about history changed over time?
14. How did the expansion of ancient civilizations differ around the world?
15. How did ancient civilizations use the environment to help them survive?
16. Why do we keep records?
17. How important are museums, archives, and galleries?
18. What historical terms do we still use today?
19. How did daily life for ___ change after ___?
20. Does the past make us who we are?
21. What events led to ___?
22. To what extent were the lives of ___ changed after ___?
23. What changed in ___ as a result of ___?
24. What significant beliefs impacted the daily lives of people living in ___?
25. How have agricultural practices developed and changed over time?
26. How did other ancient societies shape the way ___ developed?
27. How does our understanding of a culture help us communicate better with them?
28. What are the lasting contributions that ___ have made to ___ society?
29. What makes a great leader?
30. How do the stories of ___ compare to the stories of other migrant groups?
31. Why did ___ people emigrate to ___?
32. Who makes the news and why?
33. What impact did the “Great Migration” have on the development of humans?
34. What is the best way to share stories from long ago?
35. How can we be sure of what really happened in our past?
36. What changed as a result of ___?
37. What were the “good old days”?
38. How have people interpreted ___ differently over time?
39. What themes or structures have remained unchanged throughout history?
40. What themes of structures have changed drastically throughout history?
41. How does the study of history help us understand consequences?
42. Why is/was ___ important/significant to our understanding of ___?
43. What were the economic, military, and political causes of ___?
44. What archaeological evidence exists to confirm ___?
45. How did ___ justify ___?
46. How can one person’s experience reflect the struggles of an entire nation?
47. Why do we study and examine our past, present, and future?
48. How does conflict lead to change across different levels of society?
49. How and why do we commemorate events of the past?
50. What happens when cultures meet and/or merge?
1. What do you see in the sky?
2. What features do living things have?
3. What features do non-living things have?
4. How does the earth “work”?
5. How important is it to understand the solar system?
6. What lies beneath us and why is it important?
7. How do living things change as they grow?
8. How does science influence other subjects?
9. How important is science?
10. How does climate affect ecosystems?
11. How can we determine something that is “real” or “not real”?
12. When and how do scientific theories change?
13. Why is the recognition of patterns and structures important?
14. What makes a scientist a scientist?
15. How can we predict what life will be like in 10, 20, 50, or 100 years?
16. What can we learn from studying outer space?
17. How do our senses help us understand the world?
18. How is science relevant to our daily lives?
19. What cycles help keep our planet working?
20. In what ways does science impact our thoughts?
21. How does disease affect the world?
22. What happens when we mix things?
23. How important is science?
24. How do we know that our universe is infinite?
25. How are plants and animals the same and how are they different?
26. What is interesting about outer space?
27. How do living things survive in changing environments?
28. What patterns does outer space contain?
29. How has science progressed over the years?
30. How important are the different branches of science?
31. How have different inventions changed the world?
32. Which branch of science is the most important and why?
33. What can we learn from studying outer space?
34. How impactful are forces in our everyday life?
35. What impact has electricity had on our lives?
36. How does energy impact our daily life?
37. How have models of atoms changed over time?
38. In what ways do materials behave differently in outer space?
39. How else could you group living things?
40. How do our bodies change from night to day?
41. What questions have boggled scientists for centuries?
42. How have antibiotics changed history?
43. How does the moon affect our lives?
44. How has the discovery of the solar system changed history?
45. What do we need to know about the weather?
46. Why is it important to understand forces?
47. How can understanding science help us to make change?
48. Why do we have different climates and weather patterns?
49. Where does energy come from and how is it used?
50. Why do we have seasons and how are they changing?
1. How can math be useful in our day-to-day lives?
2. Where can we find math?
3. How can math help countries cooperate?
4. What 2D and 3D shapes can we find in our environment?
5. What is “equal”?
6. How can I best represent a pattern?
7. How do you identify a pattern?
8. How can we predict what will happen next?
9. When and how has math played important roles throughout history?
10. How do we measure time?
11. How has math been useful in war?
12. What math do I need to build ___?
13. What do graphs tell us?
14. What is the relationship between addition and subtraction?
15. What is the relationship between multiplication and division?
16. What relationships exist between the four operations?
17. What is the most useful shape?
18. How can we tell what time it is?
19. How can we measure ___?
20. How could we use math to create a better world?
21. How can math help us create more efficient ___?
22. How can we record mathematical observations accurately?
23. What information is important in a math problem? How do we know?
24. How can I determine the best strategy for solving a math problem?
25. Do all strategies for problem-solving work for every math problem?
26. What makes math a creative subject?
27. How is it possible to compare sizes of objects that can’t be put next to each other?
28. How can measurements change?
29. What is a fraction and why are they important?
30. How do numbers help us communicate?
31. Where can I find fractions in my daily life?
32. How can I change the shape of a shape?
33. How many different ways are there to count?
34. In what ways can we compare ___ and ___?
35. How have mathematical principles changed over time?
36. What is the most useful mathematical tool?
37. How have calculators been beneficial to mathematicians?
38. How can understanding math earn someone more money?
39. What jobs rely heavily on math?
40. Who has been the most influential mathematician in history?
41. Why does math have a bad reputation?
42. What types of math are difficult?
43. Why are some people are really good at math and others aren’t?
44. How do I make a reasonable estimation?
45. Can numbers lie?
46. How can math help us navigate?
47. What makes an effective survey?
48. How can math help to eliminate poverty?
49. What stories live in numbers?
50. What stories can data tell us?
1. How can I communicate better with ___?
2. What makes me who I am?
3. How well does my family know me?
4. How can we show kindness to one another?
5. Can we be happy and sad at the same time?
6. Can we be ___ and ___ at the same time?
7. How can I reduce my carbon footprint?
8. How can I be a positive force in my community?
9. In what ways does our local community meet the needs of ___?
10. How can I care for my body?
11. How can I be a good friend?
12. What historical figures have made a positive impact in the world?
13. How do humans change over time?
14. Does change always mean “good” or “bad”?
15. How do our choices affect our health?
16. What are my goals in life?
17. What impact does social media have on people’s lives?
18. How can I influence my friends and family positively?
19. How can a growth mindset help me?
20. How can we ensure that conflicts lead to positive change for everyone?
21. Why is it important to be resilient?
22. What characteristics make someone responsible?
23. What makes a true friend?
24. What role(s) do I play in creating my future?
25. How do our relationships with others change who we are?
26. How can I make a positive difference in the lives of others?
27. What makes a relationship healthy or unhealthy?
28. What qualities make a great leader?
29. What does success mean to me?
30. What makes a great team?
31. What makes me happy?
32. How have I changed over time?
33. What is the difference between “growing” and “aging”?
34. What will my legacy be for future generations?
35. What is the difference between a body and a spirit?
36. What qualities make someone “mature”?
37. How do we form our own unique personalities?
38. What is the difference between being old and being wise?
39. Is religion always a force for good?
40. How useful is failure in our personal development?
41. How do our bodies “work”?
42. Who are the role models in my life and why?
43. How am I connected to my past?
44. What cultures have influenced my development?
45. What historical figures have embodied what it means to be successful?
46. Why is it important to set goals?
47. How can conflict be good for relationships?
48. How can we separate what the media tells us and what we want for ourselves?
49. Why is change important?
50. Why is it important to have differences in personalities and characteristics?