# Self Assessment Competencies for Understanding by Design

Below are a series of questions that a person with a good grasp of the UbD framework would have solid responses for. The purpose of this self-assessment is not to see if you have the “right answers,” but how ready you are to take advantage of the UbD template for curriculum unit design. Not jumping in too quickly, might save you time and frustration.

Suggested use:

1. Have a go at responding to each of the questions. Some of them include UbD-specific terminology. Don’t be put-off or intimidated by this – these are only words whose meaning you will quickly master. Respond to as many questions as you can.
2. Next, work together with a partner or team to “fill in the blanks.” Share knowledge to arrive at the best response or hypothesis for each question.
3. Finally, the whole group will work together to clarify and sharpen the responses as well as clear up any misconceptions.
4. Make personal note of any of the questions that you’d like to learn more about. This will lead into your personal learning plan.

How is “understanding” different from, but related to, “knowledge” and “skill?”

What are some of the benefits of pursuing an “understanding-based curriculum?”

What is the reason for a “backward design” approach? What are its benefits?

In what ways are “understandings” and/or “essential questions” powerful tools in developing students’ sophistication in the subject areas / disciplines?

What are key attributes of an assessment task that provides evidence of understanding?

Extra Challenge: How do “Transfer Goals,” “Enduring Understandings” and “Essential Questions” inter-relate and support or build on each other?