

Activity

Target-defined and activity-defined schemes of work and session plans.

There are two main types of schemes of work and session plans.

- **Target-defined** schemes provide a list of contents (usually the exam syllabus or course specification) together with dates by which each part must be 'covered'. Often, there are cross-references to textbooks, past papers and other resources.
- **Activity-defined** schemes provide an organised list of learning activities and problems, cross-referenced to learning objectives and dates. The information sheet 'Planning for variety-ideas to help' will help you with this activity.

There are several potential difficulties with target-defined schemes.

- They tend to predetermine the pace of learning.
- They ignore the prior knowledge and attainment of learners.
- The focus is on what is covered-not what is learned.
- They do not encourage subject content to be linked together.

Activity based schemes of work and session plans are seen as working documents that encourage teachers to change the course of their work according to the needs of the learners. For example, in the course of using an activity, a teacher will find that learners achieve some (possibly unanticipated) learning outcomes, while others may not be achieved. The teacher can now select the next activity from the scheme so that it focuses on those unachieved needs.

Activity.

The purpose of this activity is to develop understanding about activity based schemes of work and session plans.

- Revise an existing session plan or scheme of work to include an organised list of **learning activities*** and problems, cross-referenced to learning objectives and dates.

You may then explore using the plan with your tutor or mentor.

* (Not learner activities)