

Levels of Teaching

Teaching is a social and cultural process, which is designed to enable an individual to learn. It is a process in which one individual teaches or guides another individual. It is considered an act of providing instructions to the learners in the classroom situation.

According to N.L.Gage, "Teaching is a process of interpersonal influence aimed at changing the behaviour potential of another person."

According to J B Hough and James K Duncan, "Teaching is an activity with several phases, a curriculum planning phase, an instructing phase, and an evaluating phase."

Thus, the purpose of teaching is to bring modifications to the behaviour of the learner. During this process, the students and teachers interact in different ways.

Characteristics of teaching:

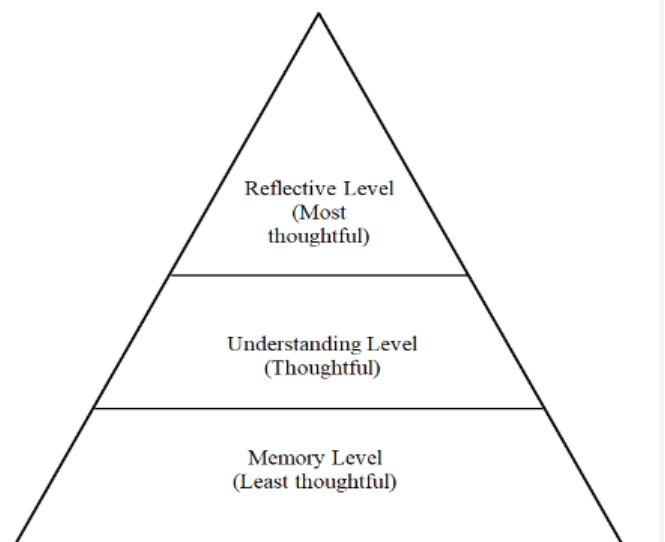
The following are the major characteristics of teaching:

- Teaching is a process of development and learning.
- Teaching results in a behaviour change.
- Teaching is a science as well as an art.
- Teaching is face to face encounter.
- Teaching is observable, measurable, and modifiable.
- Teaching is a social process
- Teaching is about giving and receiving information
- Teaching is an interactive process
- Teaching is a skilled occupation
- Teaching facilitates learning
- Teaching is both a conscious and an unconscious activity.
- Teaching is from the memory level to the reflective level.

Levels of teaching:

Teaching takes place at three different levels which are explained in detail as follows:

- Memory level teaching
- Understanding level of teaching
- Reflective level of teaching



Memory level of teaching:

It is related to memory or mental ability that is prevalent in all living beings. Teaching at the memory level is taken as the very basic and lowest level of teaching. Key points to remember are:

- It is the first stage of teaching and promotes the habit of **ROTE Learning** of facts and subjects.
- At this level, the pupil learns to identify, recall or remember the objects, ideas, and events, and memorise them.
- At this level, students retain and reproduce the learned subject.
- It emphasises on presentation of facts and information via CRAMMING.
- The learner learns through memorization
- The role of the teacher is prominent here
- The teaching-learning process is teacher oriented not learner oriented

Understanding level of teaching:

This stage comes in between memory and reflective level of teaching. This stage focuses on a moderate level of thoughtful behaviour. It is essential because a learner can't shift towards a reflective level of learning if he or she has understood this level of teaching. Below are the major features of the understanding level of teaching:

- The understanding level of teaching is propounded by H. C. Morrison.
- It focuses on the mastery of a particular subject
- This assists in building the thinking level of students to make effective use of their acquired knowledge about previously known facts and subjects.
- Student and teacher both play an active role
- The teacher explains to the student the relationship between principles and facts and teaches them how these principles can be applied.
- The evaluation system under the understanding level of teaching mainly consists of objective-type questions and essays.

Morrison has bifurcated the understanding level of teaching into 5 steps;

1. **Exploration:** it includes testing previous knowledge and analyzing the content retention capacity of the learner
2. **Presentation:** teacher presents the content, diagnoses and recapitulates till the students understand.
3. **Assimilation:** It involves generalization, conducting individual activities, working in the laboratory and library etc.
4. **Organization:** here, students are provided with opportunities for representation.
5. **Recitation:** the student at this step presents the content orally.

Hence, the understanding level of teaching establishes the relationship between facts and ideas

Reflective level of teaching

The reflective level of teaching is propounded by Hunt as the highest level of teaching. Teaching at a reflective level represents the highest level of teaching that can be carried out at the most thoughtful modes of operation. Following are the features of the reflective level of teaching

- The reflective level of teaching is considered to be the highest level at which teaching is carried out.
- Teaching at the reflective level assists the students to solve the real problems of life.
- This level is also called the introspective level.
- It is highly thoughtful and useful.
- A student can attain this level only after going through memory level and understanding level.

Difference between Memory, Understanding and Reflective level of teaching

BASIS OF DIFFERENCE	MEMORY LEVEL	UNDERSTANDING LEVEL	REFLECTIVE LEVEL
Proposed by	It is proposed by Herbert	The proponent of this is Morrison	This is provided by Hunt
Aim	Its aim is to make students cram the facts and figures	Its objective is to enhance the understanding of the student with respect to a certain concept and grasp the idea and comprehend the meaning.	Its aim is to develop a high level of thoughtfulness in teachers as well as learners.
Teacher-centred/ learner centred	It is teacher-centred	It is teacher-learner centered	It is learner-centred.
focus	It focuses on stimulus-response	It deals with the generalisation of principles	It is problem-centred and works on finding a solution to the problem
Qualities to be inculcated	It develops the learner's ability to: retain and recall	It develops thinking ability among students	It develops reasoning, logic and imagination among learners.

