Identifying the intellectual challenge of a task

Tick the statements and circle the verbs that best describe the intellectual challenge of your task.

Task		The task…	Student thinking
	Low intellectual challenge	■ Is highly predictable – no uncertainty ■ Asks closed questions ■ Focuses on only one right answer or way of approaching ■ Has a step by step process with explicit instructions ■ Focuses on recall, memorisation of facts or procedures	Name, Draw, Find, Label, Define, Match, Memorise, Recall, Measure, Retrieve, State, List, Describe, Research (look up)
	High intellectual challenge	■ Is not predictable ■ Asks open questions ■ Allows for multiple ways of approaching the task and may have unpredictable solutions ■ Allows for decisions to be made on how task can be approached ■ Provides opportunities to apply knowledge to new situations or unfamiliar contexts ■ Requires metacognition – thinking about their own thinking	Compare, Contrast, Analyse, Apply, Evaluate, Sequence, Distinguish, Criticise, Classify, Organise, Question, Research (how), Form an analogy, Explain why, Identify, Devise, Connect, Prove, Theorise, Hypothesise, Formulate, Justify, Design, Explain how, Argue, Generalise, Reflect, Create, Compose, Construct, Infer, Conclude, Reason, Synthesize, Manipulate, Relate

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