

Drafting Areas of Research Interest: Prompt Bank

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Using this resource



Why did we develop this resource?

This prompt bank is designed to help you formulate and draft questions, based on those that appear in published ARIs. We know it can be hard to start with a blank page or respond to an open prompt when developing an ARI, so this resource uses common phrases from published ARIs to help you get started.

Who am I for?

For people who want to formulate and draft ARI questions, or are supporting other people to articulate their evidence needs.

What stage am I designed for?

During the development phase of an ARI to scope, develop, and draft ARI questions.

When could you use me?

When you're supporting people developing ARI questions, for example as a handout during a workshop.

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Understanding the evidence base

What is the best evidence for...
Are there any examples of effective strategies to help...
What are the best practices for...
What are the best ways of ensuring...
What role, if any, do [xx] play in [xx]?
How can we improve our understanding of...
How effective are different (actual or potential) policy interventions for increasing participation of [xx] in [xx]?

Understanding context

What are the current and emerging changes in...
What are the impacts, risks and opportunities of...
What devolved or new powers would support...
How have instances and levels of [xx] changed over time in [xx]?
To what extent have weaknesses and limitations in [xx] (such as [xx]) contributed to [xx].
What are the key challenges for...
What are the barriers to and drivers of...

Understanding context (continued)

How different (if at all) are the pressures facing [organisation / service] when [something happens]? What is the reason for any differences?
What opportunities does [xx] offer for [xx]?
What are the most significant emerging opportunities and threats to...
What is the optimal balance between...
Is there a correlation between...
What is driving the rise in [xx]? And what policies could be used to tackle this?

Understanding how

What are the best ways in which the use of [a method or technology] could...
How can [a method / technology / approach] be utilised to enhance and strengthen...
What strategies can be employed to...
What tools and systems can be used to...
How can [xx] improve capabilities for...
How can we best assure the robustness of...
What role do [xx] play in [xx]?
How can we improve...

Understanding impact

What are the safety risks associated with...
What are the risk factors for...
What are the benefits of...
What are the long-term health effects of...
What are the long-term impacts from...
What are the impacts from [xx] on [xx]?
How can [xx] encourage...
What are the potential impacts of proposed changes in...
How do customers/service users perceive the changes that are happening in provision of...
What are the core components of...
What policies and interventions would be most effective in...

Looking for more?

Get more inspiration by visiting **ari.org.uk**

About UPEN

Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN) is a central space for academics, policy actors, and professional services staff who undertake and support academic-policy engagement. We champion academic policy engagement to strengthen evidence-informed policymaking in the UK.

UPEN is hosted by University College London (UCL), with co-chairs located at UCL, University of Huddersfield and University of Leeds.

UPEN Programmes

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