

Impact Study



Q : Skills for Success

Think critically. Succeed academically.

How can you help your students improve the skills they need for academic study?



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Background

Q: Skills for Success is designed to develop students' English language and study skills to prepare them for academic success, using a question-centered critical thinking approach that supports students as they question, analyze, and evaluate their learning. *Q: Skills for Success* encourages students to develop their core language skills as well as their softer skills, including critical thinking skills, helping them to develop the study techniques they need for academic study.

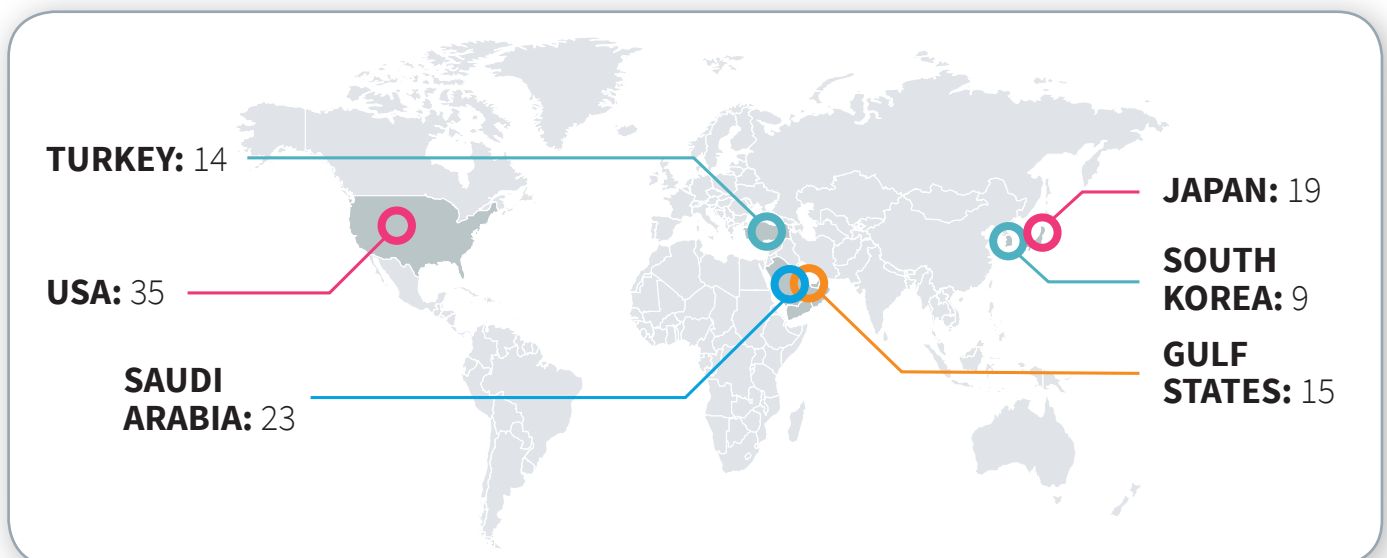
Research Objective

We undertook an impact study to find out if *Q: Skills for Success* is perceived to improve the **metacognitive skills students need for academic study** through its support for students to develop their **core skills**, the **softer skills they need to develop effective study techniques**, and **critical thinking skills**.

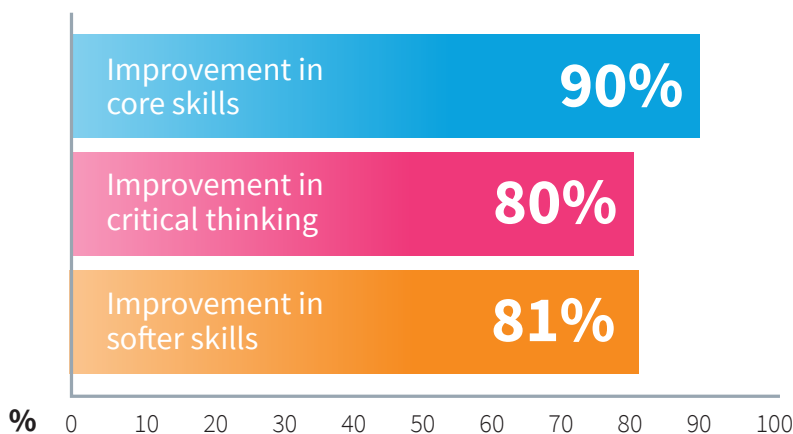
Methodology

Oxford Impact is Oxford University Press's approach to evaluating the impact that our educational products and services have on teaching and learning. An impact study investigates a particular change or outcome that a product or service has on the group of people it is intended to help or benefit.

We asked teachers in 6 countries around the world how they perceive *Q: Skills for Success* helps to prepare students for academic study in an English-speaking environment. **115** teachers responded, all of whom had been teaching with *Q: Skills for Success* for two years or more.



Key Evaluation Findings



90% of teachers agreed that *Q: Skills for Success* has played a significant part in improving the core skills their students need for academic study.

80% agreed that *Q: Skills for Success* has helped to improve students' critical thinking skills (for example, synthesizing ideas, justifying opinions, evaluating ideas).

81% agreed that *Q: Skills for Success* has helped to improve the softer skills students need to develop effective study techniques.

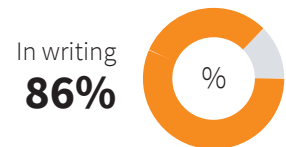
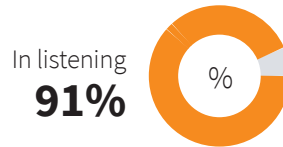
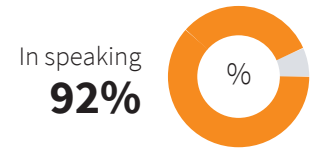
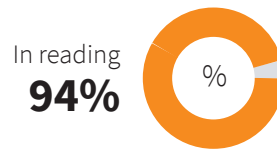
Impact on students' core skills

We asked teachers to what extent they agree with the statement: 'Q: *Skills for Success* has helped to improve students' core skills for academic purposes (e.g. understanding academic texts, writing essays, understanding lectures, participating in seminars) in each of: reading / writing / speaking / listening'.

90% agreed that Q: *Skills for Success* has played a significant part in improving the skills their students need for academic study.

Their responses highlighted improvement in reading, writing, speaking and listening, while also noting improvement in associated themes including clarity of expression and comprehension. Teachers were asked to explain the reason for their answer:

Teachers who agree that Q: *Skills for Success* has helped improve students' core skills for academic purposes (%)



'The content really helped my students learn study strategies especially for vocabulary meaning and usage - they really benefited from the collocations and vocabulary practice. The listening portions also really challenged and grew my students' comprehension.'

Teacher, USA

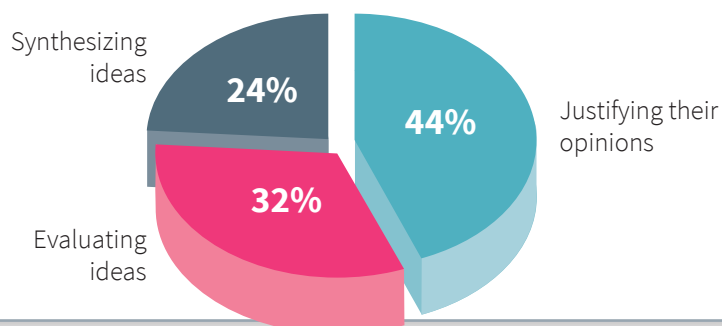
'The attention to word families has helped students expand and deepen their vocabulary knowledge.'

Head of Department, Japan

Impact on students' critical thinking skills

80% of teachers agreed with the statement: 'Q: *Skills for Success* has helped to improve students' critical thinking skills'.

Students' most improved critical thinking skills as perceived by teachers (%)



Teachers were asked to select which one critical thinking skill they perceived students had improved in the most as a result of using Q: *Skills for Success*.

Teachers perceived that Q: *Skills for Success* has helped students to develop their critical thinking skills, particularly in synthesizing and organizing ideas.

Teachers also highlighted the value of note-taking techniques in supporting their students listening to lectures, and provided specific examples of how using Q: *Skills for Success* has helped their students to develop critical thinking skills:

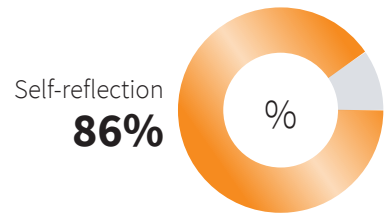
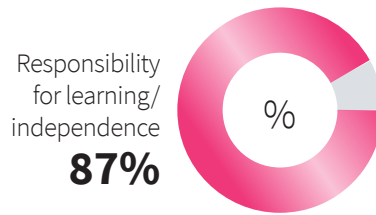
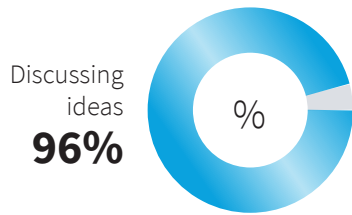
'...[students have] developed synthesizing skills by having to think about information from videos, audio recordings, their own thinking and class discussions, and then organizing ideas from that information into a cohesive written expression of what they learned. They have gained a lot of self-confidence.' Teacher, USA

'...this series is a whole new world for [students] as they are required to think, analyze and synthesize concepts.' Teacher, USA

Impact on students' softer skills

Teachers perceived that *Q: Skills for Success* has helped students to improve the **softer skills they need to develop effective study techniques**, in particular discussing ideas, taking responsibility for their learning/independence and self-reflection:

Students' most improved softer skills as perceived by teachers



Conclusion

90% of teachers who took part in the impact study agreed that *Q: Skills for Success* has played a significant part in improving the skills their students need for academic study. The main aspect of *Q: Skills for Success* that participants felt has had the biggest influence on improving these skills is the core skills for academic purposes, while a majority of participants reported that *Q: Skills for Success* has also improved the softer skills students need to develop effective study techniques and their critical thinking skills.

The Oxford Impact Framework is a systematic approach to evaluating the impact of Oxford University Press products and services. It was developed through a unique collaboration with the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) and is supported by the Oxford University Department of Education.



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Q: Skills for Success Third Edition helps students to develop the techniques and critical thinking skills they need for academic study with new Critical Thinking Strategies, updated texts and topics and 100% new assessment.

Visit www.oup.com/elt/q-skills-3e to learn more.

