

IN BRIEF

ANTICIPATION-ACTION-REFLECTION CYCLE FOR 2030

The Anticipation-Action-Reflection (AAR) cycle is an iterative learning process whereby learners continuously improve their thinking and act intentionally and responsibly, moving over time towards long-term goals that contribute to collective well-being. Through planning, experience and reflection, learners deepen their understanding and widen their perspective.

The AAR cycle builds on and integrates a range of other learning processes. It is informed by developmental and social theories of learning, and by other models of learning cycles used in a range of contexts. It consists of three phases: anticipation, action and reflection. The three stages of the AAR cycle inform, complement and strengthen each other.

In the **anticipation** phase, learners use their abilities to anticipate the short- and long-term consequences of actions, understand their own intentions and the intentions of others, and widen their own and others' perspectives.

The next phase is where learners take **action** towards specific objectives, contributing to well-being. Whatever the motivation, the consequences of any action can vary widely. An action, in itself, may be neutral, yet could result in anything from very positive to very negative outcomes for the individual, society or the planet. It is therefore important that actions taken are both intentional and responsible – hence the need for anticipation prior to the action, and for reflection following the action.

Through planning, experience and reflection, learners deepen their understanding and widen their perspective.

In the **reflection** phase, learners improve their thinking and deepen their understanding, improving their ability to align future actions with shared values and intentions, and to adapt successfully to changing conditions. Reflection is a systematic, rigorous, disciplined way of thinking, with its roots in scientific inquiry.

KEY POINTS

- Anticipation requires more than just asking questions; it involves projecting the consequences and potential impact of doing one thing over another, or of doing nothing at all.
- Action is a bridge between what learners already know and what they want to bring into being.
- Through reflection, learners gain a sense of perspective and of power over their future actions, leading to the development of agency.

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More content at: www.oecd.org/education/2030-project



AAR IN ACTION



Anticipation-Action-Reflection (AAR) cycle, Japan, Natural Science

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AAR CYCLE: SCIENCE FAIR



Anticipation-Action-Reflection (AAR) cycle, Science Fair, Mexico, Knotion

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