Students should always question what they are taught instead of accepting it passively.

*Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.*

Education is an integral part of the backbone of a country. The mental capability of the youth of a nation is crucial to the progress that it makes in the foreseeable future, and this capability is molded by the education they receive. In order to develop the necessary mental ability and critical thinking, it is necessary that one becomes an active learner, rather than exhibiting passive acceptance of the material being taught. Hence, I strongly agree with the statement “Students should always question what they are taught instead of accepting it passively.”

Actively questioning instructors regarding a topic aids in developing a more deep understanding of the material, rather than just a cursory one. When someone utilizes the fundamentals they have learned beforehand to question the validity and reasoning behind newly taught concepts, they form a strong connection between what might be a relatively abstruse topic, and the lucid fundamentals they already understand, thus enhancing their learning. It also inculcates a vital aspect of life in students - the art of critical thinking. Whether it be scientifc discoveries, daily news or political agendas, critical thinking is essential to determining the veracity of any claim one might see on a day-to-day basis. The first step to critical thinking is asking apposite questions.

In some cases, questioning the material being taught causes another desirable phenomenon in society - change. Questioning a scientific claim and doggedly pursuing the answer that would satiate your question leads to new scientific discoveries. This is how Copernicus developed his model of the solar system. Questioning the relevance and validity of established laws leads to changes in unfair legislation, which makes society a better place to live in. This is how female enfranchisement and the abolition of slavery was achieved. Questioning oppressive lessons taught in civics classes in an autocratic state could be a stepping stone towards the rejection of a totalitarian regime, and a social upheaval to establish a government desired by the people. One might argue that such radical changes are brought about by adults, but students play a crucial part in them.

One must remember boundaries while engaging in such questioning. Breaking the rhythm of an ongoing class is not the way to do it, while raising frivolous questions in order to disturb the instructor and engage in crass entertainment is certainly inappropriate. However, apart from such caveats, I strongly believe that actively questioning the material being taught is an important attribute that students must possess.