

# LEAP Online

Learning Excellence Achievement Pathway Online Tutorial



## An Introduction to Critical Thinking

LEAP Online

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## Introduction

In an age characterised by unprecedented global connectivity and an overwhelming influx of information, the ability to think critically stands as an indispensable skill within university classrooms, assessments, and the broader landscape of the modern world.

Critical thinking serves as a navigational compass, guiding individuals through the complexities of globalisation, the deluge of data spawned by the information revolution of artificial intelligence, and the multifaceted challenges of modernity. Additionally, technology permeates every aspect of our lives, therefore, the capacity to analyse, evaluate and synthesise information has become not just advantageous, but essential for informed decision-making and meaningful engagement within chosen career pathways.

The ability to think critically is essential in the modern workplace as it is in 21st-century universities. This tutorial aims to introduce you to the pivotal role of critical thinking in light of various factors underscoring its significance as a cornerstone skill for success at university and in your chosen career.

## Aims and Objectives

The aim of this tutorial is to help you:

- Develop your understanding of critical thinking
- Remember the critical thinking process and approach
- Apply this knowledge to your studies

## Who Should Complete this Tutorial?

It is recommended that you should complete this tutorial if:

- You're a new student at the University of Bolton
- You're new to studying in the UK
- Undergraduate or postgraduate student
- You have been advised to complete this tutorial by a member of staff

## Why Critical Thinking is Important in the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Workplace?

“Simple can be harder than complex: you have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it’s worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains.”

Steve Jobs

### Top 10 skills of 2023

As listed below, research by the World Economic Forum (2023) found that cognitive abilities top the list of skills considered important for the workplace.

- Analytical thinking (Cognitive skills)
- Creative thinking (Cognitive skills)
- Resilience, flexibility and agility (Self-efficacy)
- Motivation and self-awareness (Self-efficacy)
- Curiosity and lifelong learning (self-efficacy)
- Technological literacy (Technological skills)
- Dependability and attention to detail (self-efficacy)
- Empathy and active listening (Working with others)
- Leadership and social influence (Working with others)
- Quality control (Management skills)

This list highlights the top 10 skills employers expect from their employees to adapt to a disrupted work environment (World Economic Forum, 2023). Analytical thinking, closely followed by Creative thinking, are considered the top core skills by companies. Moreover, the remaining core skills, which also earn a place in the top ten, align with GAME (Graduate Attribute Matrix for Employability) and are considered important skills students need to succeed in their academic and professional journey.

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(University of Bolton GAME Attributes)



For more information on the University of Bolton's GAME attributes visit the LEAP Online ['Graduate Attribute Matrix for Employability'](#) section.

In the next section learn about the importance of critical thinking skills.



## The Importance of Critical Thinking Skills

“44% of workers' core skills are expected to change in the next 5 years.”

World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2023

The World Economic Forum (2023) predicts that Analytical thinking will continue to grow in importance – by over 70% over the next five years. The basis for their prediction is that reasoning and decision-making skills are the least automated workplace activity.

Furthermore, they also believe the demand for Creative thinking will grow faster in the next five years – by almost 75% - than the demand for Analytical thinking. It's now estimated that six in ten workers will require training before 2027, therefore, developing human capital is a core theme (World Economic Forum, 2023).

Watch this short video to see why there is no better time to foster a lifelong learning approach and start investing in your future now by developing your critical thinking skills.

- [The Growth Summit 2023](#) [YouTube]

“Critical thinking requires us to use our imagination, seeing things from perspectives other than our own and envisioning the likely consequences of our position.”

Bell Hooks

Let's move on to explore what we mean by critical thinking.

## What is Critical Thinking?



### The Crow and the Pitcher

Have you ever heard the parable of the crow and the pitcher? One hot day, as the story goes, a very thirsty crow spied a pitcher with a small pool of water at the bottom. “Oh, what relief this water will bring!” thought the crow. But no matter what he tried, he could not get his beak down the narrow neck of the pitcher to take a sip.

What does the crow do next?

This parable has been passed down through generations, so you may already know the ending: The crafty crow gathers pebbles and drops them one by one down the neck of the pitcher until the water has risen high enough to allow a drink.

This popular fable is supposed to teach us about the importance of relying on our wits in tricky situations. Less clear is how we’re supposed to get those clever instincts, what we can think of as critical thinking skills. With that in mind, let’s dive into the basics of critical thinking and why developing it matters.

“Critical thinking is the ability to make ‘clear, reasoned judgments based on interpreting, understanding, applying and synthesising evidence’ using the information you have gathered.”

Burns and Sinfield (2022, p.92)

## What is critical thinking?

The average adult makes around 35,000 decisions per day. Some decisions - like what socks to wear or what to eat for breakfast - are relatively simple, but others require a bit more effort. That’s where critical thinking comes in.

The earlier definition from Burns and Sinfield (2022) fits in well with the broad aim of higher education – ensuring students are prepared to actively engage with and evaluate ideas, evidence and information collected by various means.

Critical thinking depends on reasoning - making a decision in a logical or rational way. Some components of critical thinking include:

- Healthy scepticism about information and its origin
- Openness to new ideas and perspectives
- Asking questions and actively seeking additional information
- Understanding your own biases
- Approaching decisions with logic rather than emotions
- The ability to follow the evidence to a rational conclusion

## Critical thinkers vs. non-critical thinkers

We are not born with the ability to think critically. Instead, we hone our critical thinking skills as we gain knowledge and experience, giving us tools to make more sound judgments about what to believe or what action to take.

To explore how critical thinking skills work in action, let’s consider Kim and Samara. Both of them read the same article on their social media feeds about the “magical” power of celery juice to rid the body of harmful toxins. The article piqued their

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interest, leading them to wonder, “Should I start drinking celery juice?” Read below to see how each determined their answer.



Kim clicked a link at the bottom of the article to learn more about celery juice. The link took her to a wellness influencer on Instagram promoting it. Kim scanned through the pictures and marvelled at the difference celery juice had made for this influencer. Kim’s favourite reality TV star even made a cameo promoting the influencer’s juice. Kim placed an order that very day.



Samara also clicked the link at the bottom of the article to learn more about celery juice. She arrived at a wellness influencer’s Instagram page, where she noted celery juice was for sale. She Googled to find out more and selected articles from a respected national newspaper and a trustworthy nutrition expert. Ultimately, Samara decided that while celery juice probably isn’t bad for her, there are easier, cheaper, and tastier ways to get its benefits.

In making her decision to purchase celery juice, Kim acted on emotion and failed to put in the effort to investigate the article’s claims. On the other hand, Samara used critical thinking to determine that the “article” was more of a hyperbolic sales pitch. Review more characteristics of critical thinkers versus non-critical thinkers in the table below.

Critical Thinkers	Non-Critical Thinkers
Understand that most situations have nuance and complexity that need consideration.	See things as black and white with very little nuance.
Recognise discernible patterns and links between ideas.	Often fail to see patterns and how ideas connect.
Do not accept “yes” or “no” answers, wanting to know the deeper intricacies of an answer.	Are comfortable accepting a “yes” or “no” answer without further probing.
Can find validity in multiple points of view.	View their opinion as the one that makes sense.
Seek information that challenges their beliefs.	Seek information that reinforces their beliefs.

## Why critical thinking matters

Critical thinking leads to better decision-making and a deeper understanding of yourself and the world around you. Employers also prize critical thinking skills, since they allow employees to arrive at reasonable solutions to everyday problems without much handholding.

That’s why sharpening your critical thinking skills can help make you an indispensable employee, regardless of the industry. Read the stories of how critical thinking is used on the job every day.

### **Ronaldo**

Rolando is a paramedic. He never knows what situations he will face on any given day, so he relies on critical thinking to make quick decisions. For example, when he encounters an accident scene with multiple injured victims, he must assess the situation to determine how to prioritise each victim for the best possible outcome.

## **Maggie**

Maggie is a Mechanical Engineer. Critical thinking skills help her to tackle a range of challenges from designing, developing, and maintaining machinery and mechanical systems. Therefore, she must approach problems with a keen analytical mindset, systematically evaluating options and considering potential consequences.

## **Yvette**

Yvette is a teacher. In the classroom, not only does she need to impart knowledge but she also needs to foster students' ability to think critically about the subject she's teaching. By encouraging inquiry, challenging assumptions, and promoting analysis, Yvette can help her students to develop essential problem-solving skills that extend beyond the classroom and into all areas of their lives.

“Whether you're a student working on your assignment, or out on your placement, critical thinking skills will allow you to make 'a sound, justifiable decision, conclusion or judgment'.”

Vardi (2013, p.1)

## **Critical thinking habits to start today**

Thinking critically can help you steer clear of bad information so you can pay attention to what's relevant and accurate. That in turn will help you make better decisions. Start practicing the habits listed below to build your critical thinking skills.

- Don't take information at face value. Train yourself to reject assumptions and assertions without investigating where they came from and how reliable the information is.
- Learn something new. Critical thinking draws heavily on personal knowledge and experience. The more you learn, the deeper the well of resources at your disposal.

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- Ask questions. Instead of dismissing opinions and ideas because they don't support your own beliefs - or blindly accepting ones that do - start asking more questions. Unsound claims don't usually hold up to questioning.

### Summary

Sharpening your critical thinking skills can benefit you in a variety of ways. Your improved decision-making skills will lead you to better work and life outcomes. As you further develop your ability to reason and think critically, remember these key takeaways.

- **Critical thinkers are made, not born.** The ability to think critically is not an innate skill, it is honed over time. A hallmark of critical thinking is acting on logic and reason, not emotion, to reach the best answer.
- **Recognise when you're thinking critically...and when you're not.** If you find yourself failing to fact-check, acting purely on emotion, or dismissing other points of view out of hand, take a step back. Could you approach the issue again through a more critical lens?
- **You can start today.** You can start building critical thinking habits right now. Be intentional about verifying sources, learning new information, and asking questions to exercise your critical thinking muscles.



**Critical thinking promotes creativity.** As you grow your critical thinking skills, you might discover that your creativity is flourishing, too. Critical thinking and creativity are closely connected, and both are highly desired attributes in potential employees and leaders.

Now you have looked at what critical thinking is, move on to examine the critical thinking process in more detail.

## The Critical Thinking Process



Having a bad time researching? Imagine this

Emily has recently started the second year of her Psychology degree. She has always been a diligent student, eager to absorb knowledge and excel in her studies. However, she found herself struggling with her latest assignment.

Emily has been asked to critically analyse a research paper and identify any flaws in the methodology, conclusion, and recommendation sections.

Emily has always been good at memorising facts and theories, but when it comes to critically evaluating research, she feels out of her depth.

As she sat in the library, surrounded by sources and lecture notes, Emily started to feel a sense of frustration creeping in. She read through the research paper multiple times but each time she struggled to pinpoint any strengths and weaknesses.

Emily knows that the ability to think critically about this paper is an essential skill, but it seems like such an abstract concept compared to the skills she needed during her first year at university.

Feeling overwhelmed, Emily decides to seek help from another student.

Read through the conversation below.



**Emily.** “Dom, I just don’t know what to do. I’ve tried reading this paper, but I just can’t find any weaknesses with it.”

**Don.** “Hmm...it’s a complex problem with multiple layers to consider. Have you tried to break it down and examine each section more closely in turn?”

**Emily.** “Not really. I’ve been trying to read it all at once, which is why I’m feeling a little overwhelmed right now.”

**Don.** “Okay, try to focus on one section of the paper at a time and keep an open mind. This should help you to identify the strengths and weaknesses you’re trying to pinpoint.”

**Emily.** “That’s a good idea, thank you! I am going to figure this out.”

Dom encouraged Emily to use a critical thinking process to work through this situation logically and rationally. The critical thinking process is about solving problems by taking the time to understand and analyse them before taking action. This section explores the critical thinking process, including what it is, why it’s important, and how you can use it to navigate difficult situations.

### What is the critical thinking process, and why does it matter?

Cultivating the ability to make sound decisions through critical thinking can help you overcome obstacles and effectively manage challenging situations. When we act rashly without considering consequences, we typically do more harm than good. Critical thinking involves taking a step back to ensure that you’re considering everything. Review the list below for more benefits of critical thinking:

- It refines problem-solving skills
- Questions assumptions
- Considers multiple perspectives
- Carefully appraises, analyses and examines evidence to reach a well-reasoned conclusion
- It supports information and data-driven decisions
- It offers a methodology for tackling complex problems

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Critical thinking matters because it empowers students to navigate complex issues, solve problems creatively, and distinguish between trustworthy, relevant information and misinformation. By honing critical thinking skills, students can become more effective learners, decision-makers, and contributors to society, enabling them to adapt to ever-changing circumstances and thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Now that you understand the value of the critical thinking process, let's learn about the steps.

“Critical thinking requires us to use our imagination, seeing things from perspectives other than our own and envisioning the likely consequences of our position.”

Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau

### The critical thinking process

Whether you know it or not, when you think critically, you engage in a multi-step process. Sometimes the process is automatic, like deciding what action to take when your car starts to skid. Other times it's necessary to be more meticulous through each step, like when choosing a day care provider or solving a problem at work. Explore the seven steps of the critical thinking process by expanding each row below.

#### Step 1 – Identify the Problem

First, identify the problem. Have you ever read your Module Guide and wondered, “What does this Learning Outcome even mean?” A critical thinker needs to clearly understand the question or situation. It may sound like common sense, but we can easily rush to judgment before we understand the inner workings of a topic or issue. To clearly define the problem, issue, or situation, ask yourself questions like:

- What is the situation as I understand it?
- What have I been asked to write about?
- What does the verb (e.g., evaluate) mean?

- Is this the real problem, or is it part of a larger one?
- What are the core issues that I need to address?

## Step 2 – Gather Relevant Information

Next, it's time to gather information. Look for information that will help you make your decision or solve your problem, just make sure you include credible and relevant source material. Types of data you may look for include:

- Academic books
- Peer-reviewed journal articles Policies
- Acts of Parliament
- Online resources (trustworthy) Relevant opinions/theories Expert advice
- Lecture Notes
- Empirical evidence
- Statistical data

## Step 3 – Analyse Your Findings

Now that you've gathered the information, start analysing (remember your learning outcome may state 'appraise' or 'examine' etc) - carefully and methodically read and understand the information you have collected. In this stage, focus on activities like:

- **Separating fact from opinion.** Ask: Is this information provable? Is there bias present? Is the source reporting or editorialising?
- **Examining the source of the information.** Ask: Is it trustworthy? Does the source have an ulterior motive or special interest?
- **Considering the age of the information.** Ask: Is it out of date? Is there a new best practice to consider?

## Step 4 – Determine What's Most Important

In the next step, determine what's most relevant to your specific situation. Ask yourself:

- What information/data is most significant for this situation?
- What resources will aid my decision-making the most?
- What irrelevant information can I disregard?

### Step 5 – Consider Various Points of View

At this stage, it's essential to stop and consider other points of view. Being single-minded may prevent you from considering other relevant facts or opinions simply because you don't agree with them or didn't think of them yourself.

Tips to effectively consider various points of view include:

- Think about your solution from an opposing perspective and try to poke holes in it.
- During classroom debates, have you noticed whether peers have a different point of view/perspective from others?

### Step 6 – Draw Your Conclusions

Communicating findings, and the academic theories/ideas of others you used to arrive at your conclusion, is a critical part of the writing process. Don't overlook the value of explaining, in detail, how you arrived at your conclusion, considering all theories (e.g., those that agree and disagree with your opinion). Failing to effectively communicate your argument may cause your tutor to misunderstand or get confused (and new problems, as a result).

### Step 7 – Reflect on the Process

Once you've worked through the critical thinking process and implemented your solution, take time for reflection. Ask yourself:

- What went well?
- What areas of the process should I work to improve?
- What was most challenging about the process?
- What will I do the same next time? What will I do differently?

Using self-reflection and feedback from your tutor to evaluate your performance can strengthen your critical thinking abilities.

## Critical thinking process in action

Remember Emily from earlier? She's using the process to help her think critically about this paper. Follow along to see the critical thinking process in action.

### Step 1 – Emily identifies the problem

Emily identified that the core issue was her ability to dissect the methodology, conclusion and recommendation presented in the study.

### Step 2 – Emily gathers important information

Emily decided to break down the research paper into its components. She made notes on each section, highlighting key points and areas that were unclear or questionable.

### Step 3 – Emily analyses the information

With her notes in hand, Emily began to critically evaluate the research paper. She questioned the validity of the methodology, considering whether the size was sufficient and if any biases could have influenced the results. She scrutinised the conclusions drawn by the researchers, examining whether they were supported by data presented.

### Step 4 – Emily determines what's important

Emily identified the most crucial flaws in the research paper, focusing on aspects that significantly impacted the validity and reliability of the study. She prioritised her analysis to ensure she addressed the most critical issues thoroughly.

### Step 5 – Emily considers different points of view

Emily approached the research paper from different perspectives. She considered how other researchers might interpret the data and whether alternative explanations could account for the findings presented in the study.

### Step 6 – Emily makes her conclusion

After careful consideration, Emily reached her conclusion about the research paper. She identified several flaws in the methodology that undermined the study's

credibility and casts doubt on the validity of the conclusions drawn by the researchers.

### Step 7 – Emily takes time to reflect

Looking back on her journey, Emily realised that her initial struggle to think critically was not uncommon. She acknowledged that critical thinking is a skill that requires practice and patience. By breaking down the task into manageable steps and approaching it systematically, she was able to overcome her initial difficulties and arrive at a thoughtful analysis of the research paper.

With a newfound confidence in her ability to think critically, Emily revised her analysis, refining her arguments and strengthening her conclusion. She submitted her assignment, proud of the effort she had put into honing her critical thinking skills and eager to continue developing them throughout her psychology degree.

### Summary

The critical thinking process assigns a methodology to decision-making that focuses on finding a logical and effective solution. Being intentional about working through the process steps can strengthen your critical thinking skills and help you make more informed decisions. Remember these key takeaways as you use the critical thinking process:

- Using the critical thinking process has many benefits, like providing a framework for decision-making and encouraging data-driven solutions
- The critical thinking process steps guide you from initial fact-finding all the way through communicating and reflecting on your decision or solution



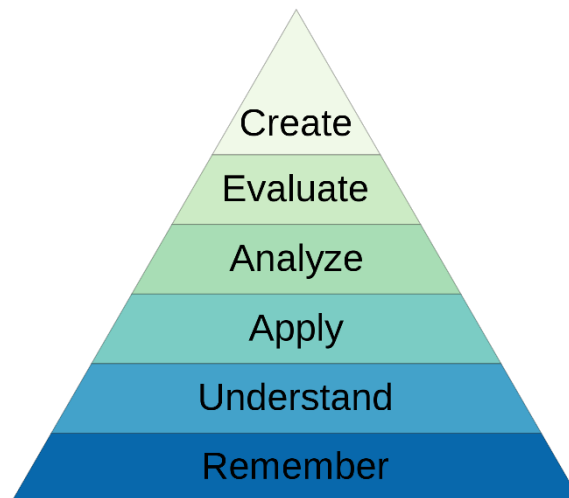
**Most problems have more than one “right” solution.** Students using the same critical thinking process may come up with different solutions. The value of the critical thinking process is not in reaching the same conclusion as others. Instead, it ensures that the conclusion you come to is rooted in evidence, logic, and reason and free from personal bias.

## Critical Thinking Approach



### Bloom's Taxonomy of Thinking Skills

Perhaps the most used framework for thinking skills derives from Bloom's taxonomy of thinking skills (1956).



Bloom's Taxonomy of Thinking Skills. Lower order thinking skills form the lower 3 tiers, moving to higher order thinking skills forming the top three tiers of the pyramid.

As illustrated above, these skills are represented in a pyramid structure, offering a framework for understanding different levels of cognitive skills, which can be vital to develop your critical thinking skills.

Here's how you can use Bloom's Taxonomy to explain this process:

### Remembering (Knowledge)

Your ability to recall facts, concepts, and information relevant to a particular topic. This lays the foundation for critical thinking by ensuring you have a solid understanding of the subject matter.

### Understanding (Comprehension)

Your ability to grasp the meaning of the information you've remembered. This involves explaining concepts, interpreting data, and summarising key points. Understanding is crucial as you will not be able to think critically unless you understand the subject matter.

### Applying (Application)

This will help you to use your understanding to solve problems, analyse situations, or apply concepts in new contexts. This step involves practical application and will allow you to see how your knowledge can be utilised in real-life scenarios, fostering critical thinking through practical application.

### Analysing (Analysis)

Break the topic down into its components, examine relationships, and identify patterns or connections. Analysing will require you to delve deeper into the content and challenge you to think critically about the underlying structure and implications of the source.

### Evaluating (Evaluation)

You will need to assess the credibility, validity, and significance of sources. This involves weighing evidence, considering multiple perspectives, and making judgments based on reasoned arguments. Evaluating encourages critical thinking by encouraging you to question assumptions and scrutinise sources critically.

### Creating (Synthesis)

This will empower you to generate new ideas, propose solutions, or develop original work based on your understanding and analysis. Creating involves combining elements in novel ways and requires higher-order thinking skills, fostering creativity and innovation, which are essential components of critical thinking.



## English for Academic Purpose and Critical Thinking

For students who do not speak English as their first language, developing critical thinking skills can be both challenging and rewarding.

Thinking in different languages can shape our thought processes and perspectives, enhancing our critical thinking skills by allowing us to approach problems from different angles. The video below delves into how multilingualism can foster more flexible and nuanced thinking.

[Do we think differently in different languages?](#) – BBC Ideas [YouTube]

A multi-faceted approach that integrates language learning with critical thinking strategies can significantly enhance abilities. Focusing on building a strong foundation of vocabulary is essential. Language skills and thinking skills are mutually associated, with critical thinking helping to improve language learning and use (Yang and Gamble 2013; Bagheri 2015).

If English is not your first language, take a look at how you can use Bloom's Taxonomy to explore academic English at different levels.

### Lower levels

Starting at the lowest level, remembering, students can engage in activities, like word drills, flashcards and vocabulary quizzes to memorise new words and phrases.

Then, Understanding involves grasping the meaning and context of the material, which is often the first challenge for non-native English speakers when reading academic text. To enhance your skills further, visit:

- [Reading Skills](#) – EAP Foundation  
Learn different strategies to help you read academic text efficiently and effectively.

## Higher levels

At higher levels, such as applying and analysing, students can enhance their vocabulary by using words in various contexts and examining language structures. Interactive tasks like debates and problem-solving scenarios allow students to apply vocabulary knowledge practically while analysing language patterns helps refine their grammatical understanding. To enhance your skills further, visit:

- [Conversation Cafes](#) – LEAP Live  
Will help you to develop your English-speaking skills by engaging in respectful debates.

## Discourse level

At the discourse level, Bloom's Taxonomy offers opportunities for students to develop critical thinking skills by evaluating and creating language constructs.

Evaluating involves assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of language use, which can be achieved through activities like editing and proofreading.

Finally, creating empowers students to generate their linguistic expressions, whether through writing essays, delivering verbal presentations, or participating in classroom discussions or debates. This synthesis of language and critical thinking enables students to express themselves confidently and persuasively, honing their ability to analyse and communicate complex ideas effectively. Through this holistic approach, students who do not speak English as their first language can cultivate not only linguistic proficiency but also the critical thinking skills necessary for success in academic and professional contexts. To enhance your skills further, visit:

- [Academic Writing Tutorials](#) – LEAP Online  
Will help you develop the essential skills for producing a well-written piece of work.
- [Vocabulary](#) – EAP Foundation  
Vocabulary is a key area of any English study. The more words you know, the more you will comprehend and the better you can communicate.

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To learn more about how you can apply Bloom's Taxonomy to develop your academic English skills at university, read below:

### Bloom's Taxonomy – Academic English

Using Bloom's taxonomy of thinking skills, students can explore academic English at different levels.

#### Skill 1 – Remember

##### **Vocabulary Development**

Memorise new words and phrases.

##### **Grammar Development**

Recognise basic grammatical structures.

##### **Discourse Development**

Recall and retell simple stories or events (e.g., for reflective writing).

#### Skill 2 – Understand

##### **Vocabulary Development**

Grasp meanings and contexts of words.

##### **Grammar Development**

Understand sentence structure and syntax.

##### **Discourse Development**

Interpret short passages or dialogues.

#### Skill 3 – Apply

##### **Vocabulary Development**

Use vocabulary in various contexts.

##### **Grammar Development**

Apply grammar rules in speaking and writing.

##### **Discourse Development**

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Engage in debates or problem-solving activities.

## Skill 4 – Analyse

### **Vocabulary Development**

Analysing word usage and language patterns.

### **Grammar Development**

Deconstruct sentences to identify grammatical rules.

### **Discourse Development**

Evaluate the effectiveness of language use.

## Skill 5 – Evaluate

### **Vocabulary Development**

Assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of language use.

### **Grammar Development**

Identify and correct errors in writing when you proofread.

### **Discourse Development**

Reflect on your language proficiency.

## Skill 6 – Create

### **Vocabulary Development**

Generate original expressions and ideas.

### **Grammar Development**

Craft well-structured paragraphs using different sentence structures.

### **Discourse Development**

Writing essays, delivering presentations, or participating in debates.

## Characteristics of developing your critical thinking skills

### Immerse yourself

In English-speaking environments, such as participating in Conversation Cafes, joining workshops, or engaging in extracurricular activities conducted in English, can enhance critical thinking skills. Constant exposure to the language fosters a deeper understanding of its nuances and encourages students to think critically in real-time conversations and discussions.

### Read analytically

Engaging with academic texts critically is crucial for your development. Appraising source material, analysing arguments, evaluating the evidence, and identifying underlying assumptions are skills that will help you to become a more discerning reader. This skill translates into improved critical thinking abilities, as you learn to question and interrogate the material you encounter.

### Collaborate

Collaborative learning environments, such as group projects, provide valuable opportunities for you to develop critical thinking skills. Engaging in discussions, debating ideas, and defending your stance in a team setting fosters intellectual growth and encourages you to consider multiple perspectives. Moreover, interacting with peers who may have different linguistic backgrounds can broaden your thinking and enhance your problem-solving abilities.

### Reflection

Seeking feedback on your language usage and critical thinking skills promotes continuous improvement. Constructive feedback from your tutor can identify areas for development and refine your abilities. Additionally, fostering a culture of reflection, where you regularly evaluate your learning experiences and strategies, enables you to become a more self-aware and proactive student, further enhancing your critical thinking skills.

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### Summary

The critical thinking approach utilising Bloom's Taxonomy underscores a structured method for developing and honing cognitive skills among students, especially if English is not your first language. Adapting this framework will also provide you with a systematic approach to developing your critical thinking abilities at university and beyond.

## Summary



As you enhance your critical thinking skills, you will become better equipped to succeed academically, professionally, and personally in environments where critical thinking is highly valued.

### Key takeaways

- The importance of developing critical thinking skills cannot be overstated, mainly because:
- Proficiency in critical thinking will empower you to navigate complex academic material effectively, make informed decisions, and communicate your ideas coherently in English.
- It equips you with the skills needed to analyse information critically, solve problems creatively, and engage with diverse perspectives.
- You will become better equipped to succeed academically, professionally, and personally in environments where critical thinking is highly valued.

As you can see, critical thinking skills cultivate essential cognitive abilities and skills vital for your success in an increasingly interconnected and globalised world.

Thank you for completing this 'Introduction to Critical Thinking' tutorial. After you have completed the assessment, move onto Level 2, where you can begin to apply these skills in university situations.

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