

# CRITICAL THINKING

## Key Stage 5

### Year 12

#### Unit 1: Introduction to Critical Thinking

##### Credibility

- How to judge the credibility of documents
- Assessing the credibility of visual and graphical evidence
- Assessing and comparing the credibility of witnesses
- Case study
- Practice questions
- Common Assessment 1 (Paper 1 Section B)

##### The language of reasoning

- What goes into an argument?
- How strong are your reasons?
- Identifying assumptions
- Use of statistical evidence in arguments
- Practice questions
- Paper 1 Section A

#### Unit 2: Assessing and Developing Argument

##### Analysis and Evaluation of Argument

- Naming flaws
- Evaluating analogies
- Principles and dilemmas
- Analysis and evaluation of a longer argument
- Multiple choice questions (Paper 2 Section A)
- Practice questions (Paper 2 Section B)

##### Developing One's Own Reasoned Arguments

- Developing arguments
- More arguments of your own: Paper 2 Section C practice
- Drawing conclusions, clarifying expressions and ideas, and other multiple choice questions
- Revision
- Practice, practice, practice

The two exams:

Paper 1: Introduction to Critical Thinking (1hr 30 min - 50%)

Paper 2: Assessing and Developing Argument (1hr 30min - 50%)

### **Year 13**

#### Unit 3: Ethical Reasoning and Decision Making

This follows clearly defined procedures for solving contemporary problems (50%)

- Problems of definition and implementation
- Understanding what the options are and the factors that affect people's stance
- Selecting criteria to help choose the best option
- Use of evidence in decision making, including statistics
- Identifying dilemmas
- Importance of principles and ethical theories
- Go through past paper together
- Common assessment: Unit 3 exam paper

#### Unit 4: Critical Reasoning

This builds on the analysis and evaluation of arguments, and creation of arguments, that you did at AS (50%)

- Building on Unit 2
- Analysing longer texts (eg. public art; nuclear power; consumerism)
- Evaluating evidence
- Evaluating reasoning (including flaws)
- Exam-style practice on longer texts
- Create arguments
- Unit 4 exam papers

The two exams:

Paper 1: Ethical Reasoning and Decision Making (1hr 30 min - 50%)

Paper 2: Critical Reasoning (1hr 30min - 50%)

#### **Support for Pupils:**

Students are supplied with one course textbook in each year, published by Heinemann in association with OCR.

#### **Useful Websites:**

There is currently a shortage of useful websites based on the **new** specification. The following is still useful for the analysis and evaluation of arguments, but **should not be taken as a guide to what is required by the current syllabus:**

[www.criticalthinking.org.uk](http://www.criticalthinking.org.uk)



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