

12CT Critical Thinking Unit 1



The Language of Reasoning			
Identifying an argument (one or more reasons that give support to a conclusion)			
Recognising different parts of argument structure			
Recognising the ways that reasons and conclusions are linked together			
Identifying the conclusion of an argument in the source material			
Explaining the purpose of argument elements: reason			
Explaining the purpose of argument elements: conclusion			
Explaining the purpose of argument elements: counter-assertion			
Explaining the purpose of argument elements: counter-argument			
Explaining the purpose of argument elements: evidence (surveys, stats etc.)			
Explaining the purpose of argument elements: example			
Identifying and using a range of argument indicators e.g. so, therefore, consequently, because, since, as, etc.			
Using argument indicators to help analyse the structure of an argument, for instance to apply the ' therefore test '			
Identifying argument elements in the source material: reason			
Identifying argument elements in the source material: counter-assertion			
Identifying argument elements in the source material: counter-argument			
Identifying argument elements in the source material: evidence			
Identifying argument elements in the source material: example			
Identifying argument elements in the source material: hypothetical reasoning			
Identifying argument elements in the source material: assumptions			
Evaluation of evidence: considering sample size of surveys quoted			
Evaluation of evidence: considering representative nature of any sample			
Evaluation of evidence: considering how and when the evidence was collected			
Evaluation of evidence: considering potential ambiguity of findings			
Evaluation of evidence: considering alternative interpretation of statistics			
Identifying instances where reasons offer limited support to conclusions			
Identifying instances where reasons offer stronger support to conclusions			
Explaining why a reason does or does not support a conclusion			
Coming up with reasons that would support a given conclusion			
Credibility			
Identify and assess different claims in source material, for example by considering the plausibility of the claim and the evidence which supports or undermines the claim			
Judging credibility: plausibility of claims or evidence			
Judging credibility: corroboration (e.g. of witness accounts)			
Judging credibility: (in)consistency (within a witness account and inconsistency or conflict between different accounts)			
Judging credibility: bias in situations where a one-sided account is given or when a person's background/expertise disposes them to a particular point of view			
Judging credibility: expertise or experience of sources of witnesses			
Judging credibility: vested interest , when there would be a clear gain from telling the truth or misrepresenting the truth			
Judging credibility: ability to see or perceive , including an understanding of the relative reliability of primary sources (eye-witness testimony) compared to secondary sources, and a consideration of factors that could distract, disorientate or confuse an observer			
Judging credibility: neutrality , when a balanced account is given or when a person has no known connection to parties involved in the scenario			
Judging credibility: reputation (negative or positive), which could come from past performance and behaviour, or from commonly held opinion, in cases such as the police, doctors and broadcasters e.g. the BBC			
Judging credibility: plausibility of claims or evidence			
Assessing credibility of evidence: the plausibility , extent and reasonableness of claims			
Assessing credibility of evidence: giving reasons why a particular claim may or may not be plausible			
Assessing credibility of evidence: explaining how any claims are strengthened/weakened by particular credibility criteria			
Assessing credibility of evidence: identifying and explaining what other information would be needed in order to reach a judgement about the credibility of a particular document or source.			
Comparing and contrasting the relative credibility of individuals or documentary evidence within a given scenario, by selecting and applying a range of credibility criteria.			
Making informed judgements about the most/least credible source within a scenario.			
Making a reasoned judgement about the probable course of events in a given scenario.			