



AS/A Level Critical Thinking

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

Critical Thinking is a skills-based rather than a content-based A Level. It develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments and can support thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- Development of this specification is supported by eight years experience of Critical Thinking - OCR AS Level Critical Thinking has been available since 1999.
- OCR has successfully delivered Critical Thinking as a four-unit A level since 2005.
- This new specification draws on that experience to ensure it meets both your needs and your students' needs.
- The new specification has been designed in consultation with customers and ensures continuity for those already teaching this subject.
- Progression from AS to A2 Level is made explicit and a greater challenge is presented at A2 Level through the nature and depth of the material studied and the greater complexity of the concepts dealt with.
- Critical Thinking develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments and can support thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences.
- Skills developed through the study of Critical Thinking at A Level act as excellent preparation for both students wishing to progress onto Higher Education and those entering the work environment.

AS Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	F501: Introduction to Critical Thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The language of reasoning• Credibility	1 hr 30 mins written exam AS Level – 50% A Level – 25%
Mandatory	F502: Assessing and Developing Argument <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of argument• Evaluating arguments• Developing own's reasoned arguments	1 hr 30 mins written exam AS Level – 50% A Level – 25%

A2 Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	F503: Ethical Reasoning and Decision Making <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethical theories• Recognising and applying principles• Dilemmas and decision making	1 hr 30 mins written exam A Level – 25%
Mandatory	F504: Critical Reasoning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of complex arguments• Evaluating complex arguments• Developing cogent and complex arguments	1 hr 30 mins written exam A Level – 25%

All four units are mandatory. There is no coursework in the new specification.

How is this qualification assessed?

All units are externally assessed through timetabled written examination.

Examination sittings are available every January and June.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination available from January 2009.

A2

First examination available from January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

INSET will be available prior to the commencement of the specification.

Publishers

Developed in close consultation with OCR, Heinemann is publishing materials for the 2008 Critical Thinking specification.

Resources

You will be able to download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Specimen Assessment Materials for all units.
- Schemes of work, lesson plans and student responses to Sample Assessment Materials.
- A dedicated e-community is available for A Level Critical Thinking to allow you to share good practice and questions with other teachers of the subject.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk where you can join the Critical Thinking e-community.