
Assessment

Critical Thinking

2nd Edition

Complete this book, and you'll know how to:

- 1) Explain the differences between critical and noncritical thinking.
- 2) Improve the thinking necessary to make effective decisions at work.
- 3) Evaluate the validity of arguments.
- 4) Use evidence to support strong arguments and explanations.
- 5) Formulate effective explanations with solid information and reasoned hypotheses.



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Assessment Questions for *Critical Thinking, 2nd Edition*

Select the best response.

1. The term “critical thinking” means:
 - A. Critiquing someone’s ideas
 - B. Using a negative approach to dealing with others
 - C. Evaluating a situation, and then choosing a path of investigation to find the best possible answer
 - D. Applying mathematical logic to everyday situations
2. The statement “We might as well take it easy until the new company president is selected next month” is an example of:
 - A. Using irrelevant facts
 - B. Appealing to the multitude
 - C. Oversimplifying
 - D. Begging the question
3. You should always trust your own observations, even if someone else presents conflicting evidence.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. The phrase “As a result of” is a cue that often introduces:
 - A. The topic under dispute
 - B. Statements of evidence
 - C. The presenter’s motive
 - D. Statements of noncritical thinking
5. Methods of strengthening your fair-mindedness include:
 - A. Thinking of at least three plausible solutions for every problem you encounter
 - B. Refusing to settle until you’ve assembled a 100% accurate solution
 - C. Asking yourself how you dealt with similar problems in the past
 - D. Keeping a journal

6. Which of the following questions are useful during the information-processing stage?
 - A. Does any information not fit the hypothesis?
 - B. Is this the simplest explanation for the situation?
 - C. How can I categorize this information?
 - D. Which alternative makes the most sense?
 - E. What kind of information do I need?
7. To avoid falling victim to the “slippery slope” tactic, you should:
 - A. Examine each conclusion one at a time.
 - B. Point out the person’s errors in logic.
 - C. Hold firm to your argument.
 - D. A and B.
 - E. B and C.
8. A conclusion that is not agreed upon and is given supporting evidence for why it should be believed is called an “argument.”
 - A. True
 - B. False
9. The process of developing an explanation includes:
 - A. Gathering and processing information
 - B. Developing and testing hypotheses
 - C. Uncovering and reporting biases
 - D. A and B
 - E. A and C
10. If someone uses pressure tactics, your best recourse is to:
 - A. Ignore the intimidating statement.
 - B. Respond in kind.
 - C. Report the person to your supervisor.
 - D. Shift the conversation back to the issue at hand.
11. In the context of critical thinking, a “hypothesis” is defined as:
 - A. A speculation
 - B. An intellectually inferior shortcut
 - C. A means of distancing yourself from the emotions surrounding an issue
 - D. An outdated opinion

12. An important tenet of critical thinking is being receptive to new ideas, and realizing that all opinions are equally valid.
 - A. True
 - B. False
13. “Before we jump to conclusions, let’s find out if there are other reasons. Perhaps there are factors we don’t know about” is an example of which critical thinking style or styles?
 - A. Explorer
 - B. Navigator
 - C. Detective
 - D. A and B
 - E. A and C
14. Adapting the presentation of your arguments to fit the language and concerns of your audience is manipulative and conflicts with the goal of critical thinking.
 - A. True
 - B. False
15. Which of the following is not a strategy for increasing your critical thinking?
 - A. A willingness to look at yourself
 - B. A belief that your way can always prevail
 - C. Persistent evaluation
 - D. Commitment to an informed decision
16. When you ask an employee whether he believes one of his co-workers can handle a complicated new project, he replies “How could she? She’s only a Web site developer.” What noncritical thinking style is he displaying?
 - A. The Grinch
 - B. The Dilettante
 - C. The Snob
 - D. The Leech
17. To distinguish between an “argument” and an “explanation,” you should determine the speaker’s intent.
 - A. True
 - B. False

18. The statement “I’ve never seen a more efficient way to go about it, so I guess this workflow process is the best there is” is an example of:
- A. Oversimplifying
 - B. Arguing from ignorance
 - C. Presenting a false cause
 - D. Avoiding uncomfortable facts
19. The first step in analyzing an argument is to:
- A. Decide whether the argument benefits you.
 - B. Look for consistency.
 - C. Pinpoint the issues.
 - D. Identify the arguments.
 - E. Evaluate the credibility of the person making the argument.
20. Which of the following might offer insight into another person’s argument?
- A. The presenter’s motive and purpose
 - B. The place in which the argument was communicated
 - C. The circumstances around the issue
 - D. All of the above
 - E. A and C
21. If you decide that a person is rude because she did not return a call promptly, you might be guilty of:
- A. Stereotyping
 - B. Self-delusion
 - C. Attribution error
 - D. Excessive focus on the conspicuous
22. A good hypothesis will explain all the relevant facts.
- A. True
 - B. False
23. When someone makes an inflammatory remark, you should:
- A. Point out their mean-spiritedness.
 - B. Rephrase it in more neutral terms.
 - C. Respond in kind.
 - D. Ignore it and keep to the facts.
24. To improve your self-awareness, you should ask “what” questions.
- A. True
 - B. False

25. What is the underlying issue in the statement, “We’re losing business because we have so many dinosaurs in this place”?
- A. Is it undesirable to have old-fashioned co-workers?
 - B. Are our co-workers old-fashioned?
 - C. Do we need to restaff?
 - D. Are we losing business?
26. We practice critical thinking when we:
- A. Use reasoning strategies to automatically reach a decision about what to believe or do.
 - B. Use reasoning strategies to manipulate others to our point of view.
 - C. Use reasoning strategies carefully and deliberately to reach a decision about what to believe or do.
 - D. Use deceptive techniques to make sure our beliefs are accepted by others.
27. The statement, “We should use X brand printer paper because most people use it,” is an example of:
- A. Attacking the person
 - B. Sliding down a slippery slope
 - C. Appealing to the multitude
 - D. Avoiding uncomfortable facts.
28. Asking the question, “What is this person trying to prove” is a way to identifying:
- A. Evidence
 - B. Conclusions
 - C. The issue
 - D. The hypothesis
29. When words in a statement have multiple meanings, this is an example of:
- A. Evidence
 - B. A generalization
 - C. An ambiguity
 - D. An underlying assumption
30. Attribution error is when you:
- A. Develop a biased mental model.
 - B. Focus on particularly vivid or memorable data.
 - C. Try to manipulate others.
 - D. Explain other people’s behavior as being based on internal variables rather than external variables.

31. The order of the four elements for developing an explanation are:
- A. Testing hypotheses, developing hypotheses, gathering information, processing information
 - B. Processing information, gathering information, developing hypotheses, testing hypotheses
 - C. Gathering information, processing information, developing hypotheses, testing hypotheses
 - D. Gathering hypotheses, processing hypotheses, testing hypotheses, developing hypotheses
32. An indicator cue for a statement of evidence is:
- A. “What I’d like to see is...”
 - B. “Is supported by...”
 - C. “Thus...”
 - D. “My point is...”
33. The critical thinking style that accepts challenges, perseveres, and faces difficult problems is:
- A. The Explorer
 - B. The Student
 - C. The Detective
 - D. The Warrior
34. The best way to develop explanations is to:
- A. Ask questions.
 - B. Identify the issue.
 - C. Appeal to the multitude.
 - D. Restate your opinion.
35. Which of the following is not a way to powerfully present ideas:
- A. Predict challenges and have prepared responses.
 - B. Make excuses.
 - C. Stick to one issue.
 - D. Be prepared.
36. Which of the following is not relevant in determining credibility:
- A. The evidence conflicts with your personal knowledge.
 - B. You feel an affinity with the speaker.
 - C. The source of the evidence is credible.
 - D. The evidence conflicts with your background knowledge.

37. A good hypothesis does not:
- A. Appear believable.
 - B. Provide complex perspectives for linking all the evidence.
 - C. Appear better than alternative explanations in giving clear reasons for the situation.
 - D. Explain all the relevant facts.
38. When you identify and challenge your biases you are demonstrating the strategy:
- A. Commitment to an informed decision
 - B. A willingness to look at yourself
 - C. Persistent evaluation
 - D. Ongoing fair-mindedness
39. It is useful to pinpoint issues because:
- A. It provides an outlet for uncritical thinking.
 - B. We can't believe anything others say.
 - C. It can help clarify an issue.
 - D. We can get confused by evidence.
40. You can determine the credibility of a source by asking the following question:
- A. Is the source new to the area?
 - B. Did the source directly observe the situation or is the information simply hearsay?
 - C. Does the source have an advanced degree?
 - D. Is the source good at sports?
41. When we derive a general concept from specific items, we are making a:
- A. Generalization
 - B. Conclusion
 - C. Argument
 - D. Decision
42. When you generate alternatives, it is useful to remember that:
- A. There are often more than two alternatives.
 - B. The first hypothesis is always the one we should accept.
 - C. The right alternative is usually one we know about.
 - D. It can be confusing to do a lot of research.

43. If you receive an e-mail that is copied to your boss and your boss' boss, this may help you in:
- A. Being prepared
 - B. Recognizing a solution
 - C. Determining the explanation
 - D. Understanding context
44. Failure to analyze ideas fully is an example of:
- A. Judging an argument
 - B. Critical thinking
 - C. Noncritical thinking
 - D. Persistent evaluation
45. Holding an unstated belief that supports expressed reasoning is an example of:
- A. An issue
 - B. A bias
 - C. Critical thinking
 - D. An assumption
46. Recognizing the need for trade-off or consensus in making your decisions is an example of:
- A. Emotional manipulation
 - B. Information processing errors
 - C. Identifying evidence
 - D. Commitment to an informed decision
47. Evidence is inconsistent when it:
- A. Contradicts another piece of evidence
 - B. Supports the conclusion
 - C. Answers several questions at once
 - D. Demonstrates a unique experience
48. When you compare your initial goals with your results, you demonstrate:
- A. Obsessive strategizing
 - B. Deceptive reasoning
 - C. Persistent evaluation
 - D. Fair-mindedness

49. If you provide evidence to answer a question, this is an example of:
- A. An argument
 - B. A solution
 - C. An intention
 - D. An explanation
50. A conclusion is:
- A. A statement that takes a particular stand on an issue
 - B. An attempt to persuade someone of a position
 - C. A statement that leads you down a slippery slope
 - D. Proof of a contradiction

Assessment Answer Key for Critical Thinking, 2nd Edition

Recommended response (Corresponding workbook page)

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| 1. C (10) | 14. B (65) | 27. C (13) | 40. B (56) |
| 2. A (12) | 15. B (27) | 28. B (47) | 41. A (77) |
| 3. B (56) | 16. C (22, 93) | 29. C (51) | 42. A (80) |
| 4. B (47) | 17. A (72) | 30. D (78) | 43. D (54) |
| 5. A (32) | 18. B (13) | 31. D (74) | 44. C (20) |
| 6. C (83) | 19. C (41) | 32. B (49) | 45. D (86) |
| 7. A (15) | 20. D (53) | 33. D (23) | 46. D (33) |
| 8. A (39) | 21. C (78) | 34. A (83) | 47. A (56) |
| 9. D (74) | 22. A (80) | 35. B (65) | 48. C (30) |
| 10. A (17) | 23. B (16) | 36. B (56) | 49. D (71) |
| 11. A (80) | 24. B (28) | 37. B (82) | 50. B (39) |
| 12. B (20) | 25. C (39, 40) | 38. B (28) | |
| 13. E (25, 93) | 26. C (12) | 39. C (42) | |