



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

NHCT100: CRITICAL THINKING, LOGIC AND PROBLEM SOLVING

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

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DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Answer All questions in Section A**
 - 2. Answer any two questions in Section B**
 - 3. Start a new question on a fresh page**
 - 4. Credit will be given for appropriate use of examples**
- Additional material(s): None.***
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SECTION A: COMPULSORY

(Answer all questions in this section. Section A carries 50 marks)

Read the text below and answer the questions which follow.

QUESTION 1.

What is critical thinking, and why is it so important? The Critical Thinking Community defined critical thinking as “the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action” (Scriven & Paul, 2007, p. 1). Critical thinking has also been referred to as metacognition (Tempelaar, 2006) or the process of “thinking about thinking” as defined and originally purposed by Flavell (1979). Critical thinking skills are important because they enable students “to deal effectively with social, scientific, and practical problems” (Shakirova, 2007, p. 42). Simply put, students who are able to think critically are able to solve problems effectively. Merely having knowledge or information is not enough. To be effective in the workplace (and in their personal lives), students must be able to solve problems to make effective decisions; they must be able to think critically.

Critical thinking is not a new concept. “Throughout nearly 300 years of policymaking in the United States, educators have promoted eight broad goals of schooling: basic academic skills, critical thinking and problem solving, social skills and work ethic, citizenship, physical health, emotional health, the arts and literature, and preparation for skilled employment” (Rothstein, Wilder, & Jacobsen, 2007, p. 8). Business education directly addresses work ethic and the preparation for skilled employment as well as critical thinking and problem solving. Yet many teachers continually struggle to engage students in critical thinking activities (Tempelaar, 2006), and students seldom use critical thinking skills to solve complex, real-world problems (Bartlett, 2002; Rippin, Booth, Bowie, & Jordan, 2002). Why?

The answer may be in our instructional methods. Two quotes that are often cited together reflect this supposition (as cited by Schaefersman, 1991). First, Clement (1979) stated that “we should be teaching students how to think. Instead, we are teaching them what to think” (p. 1). Second, Norman (1981) noted that “it is strange that we expect students to learn, yet seldom teach them anything about learning” (p. 1). Although content is important, the process of how students learn the material is equally important. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to analyze and synthesize secondary research to provide best practices for incorporating critical thinking instructional methods into business education classrooms at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. First, critical thinking is described as it relates to instructional design. Then barriers to critical thinking are outlined. Finally, instructional strategies for enhancing students’ critical thinking skills are provided as well as examples of critical thinking in business education.

Source: Snyder, L. G., & Snyder, M. J. (2008). Teaching Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills. *Delta Pi Epsilon Journal*, 50, 90-99.

Answer all questions:

- a. What is critical thinking? [5 Marks]
- b. Why is critical thinking referred to as a metacognition? [10Marks]
- c. Why are critical thinking skills important to students? [10 Marks]
- d. State two barriers to the critical thinking process. [5 Marks]
- e. Why do teachers find it difficult to teach critical thinking? [10 Marks]
- f. How can one use critical thinking tools to solve scientific and/ or practical problems? [10 Marks]

SECTION B

Answer any two (2) questions from this section. Each question carries 25 marks.

Question 2

“It is possible to store the mind with a million facts and still be entirely uneducated.” Alec Bourne.

With reference to the above assertion, what do you think is the importance of critical thinking in your area of study at university? [25 Marks]

Question 3

Business professionals from around the globe are having an argument on the role of artificial intelligence in engineering, accounting, marketing, computers systems, economics, social work, public administration and business administration.

Making reference to elements of Critical Thinking, present the steps that you will take in an effort to resolve the problem and have an informed decision. [25 Marks]

Question 4

Analyse all the four passages below and:

- Identify the premises and conclusions, [2 Marks]
- State whether the premise and/or the conclusions are true/false, [1 Marks]
- And also explain whether they are correct or incorrect arguments. [3 Marks]

NB: Each sub-question carries six (6) marks

- a. All Roman Catholics are not fundamentalist, but all born again Christians are. So no born again Christian is a Roman Catholic.
- b. All accountants are University graduates, so all members of the Zimbabwean Accountants Association must be University graduates, since all members of the Zimbabwean Accountants Association are accountants.
- c. The golden rule (the rule of conduct, do unto others as you want them to do unto you) is basic to every system of ethics ever devised and everyone accepts it in some form or the other. It is therefore an undeniable sound moral principle.
- d. The assumption that the creation of the state automatically means the creation of development is wrong. There are many areas in the state that have seen no progress even though they have been affected by many state creation exercise. [25 Marks]

Question 5

Devise a hypothetical problem in your area of study. Clearly explain the FIVE steps that you will take in solving this problem and coming up with a decision. Your response should be well supported and logical. [25 Marks]

End of Paper