

Critical and Creative Thinking learning continuum

Sub-element	Level 1 Typically, by the end of Foundation Year, students:	Level 2 Typically, by the end of Year 2, students:	Level 3 Typically, by the end of Year 4, students:	Level 4 Typically, by the end of Year 6, students:	Level 5 Typically, by the end of Year 8, students:	Level 6 Typically, by the end of Year 10, students:
Inquiring – identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas element						
Pose questions	pose factual and exploratory questions based on personal interests and experiences	pose questions to identify and clarify issues, and compare information in their world	pose questions to expand their knowledge about the world	pose questions to clarify and interpret information and probe for causes and consequences	pose questions to probe assumptions and investigate complex issues	pose questions to critically analyse complex issues and abstract ideas
Identify and clarify information and ideas	identify and describe familiar information and ideas during a discussion or investigation	identify and explore information and ideas from source materials	identify main ideas and select and clarify information from a range of sources	identify and clarify relevant information and prioritise ideas	clarify information and ideas from texts or images when exploring challenging issues	clarify complex information and ideas drawn from a range of sources
Organise and process information	gather similar information or depictions from given sources	organise information based on similar or relevant ideas from several sources	collect, compare and categorise facts and opinions found in a widening range of sources	analyse, condense and combine relevant information from multiple sources	critically analyse information and evidence according to criteria such as validity and relevance	critically analyse independently sourced information to determine bias and reliability
Generating ideas, possibilities and actions element						
Imagine possibilities and connect ideas	use imagination to view or create things in new ways and connect two things that seem different	build on what they know to create ideas and possibilities in ways that are new to them	expand on known ideas to create new and imaginative combinations	combine ideas in a variety of ways and from a range of sources to create new possibilities	draw parallels between known and new ideas to create new ways of achieving goals	create and connect complex ideas using imagery, analogies and symbolism
Consider alternatives	suggest alternative and creative ways to approach a given situation or task	identify and compare creative ideas to think broadly about a given situation or problem	explore situations using creative thinking strategies to propose a range of alternatives	identify situations where current approaches do not work, challenge existing ideas and generate alternative solutions	generate alternatives and innovative solutions, and adapt ideas, including when information is limited or conflicting	speculate on creative options to modify ideas when circumstances change
Seek solutions and put ideas into action	predict what might happen in a given situation and when putting ideas into action	investigate options and predict possible outcomes when putting ideas into action	experiment with a range of options when seeking solutions and putting ideas into action	assess and test options to identify the most effective solution and to put ideas into action	predict possibilities, and identify and test consequences when seeking solutions and putting ideas into action	assess risks and explain contingencies, taking account of a range of perspectives, when seeking solutions and putting complex ideas into action

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Reflecting on thinking and processes element						
Think about thinking (metacognition)	describe what they are thinking and give reasons why	describe the thinking strategies used in given situations and tasks	reflect on, explain and check the processes used to come to conclusions	reflect on assumptions made, consider reasonable criticism and adjust their thinking if necessary	assess assumptions in their thinking and invite alternative opinions	give reasons to support their thinking, and address opposing viewpoints and possible weaknesses in their own positions
Reflect on processes	identify the main elements of the steps in a thinking process	outline the details and sequence in a whole task and separate it into workable parts	identify pertinent information in an investigation and separate into smaller parts or ideas	identify and justify the thinking behind choices they have made	evaluate and justify the reasons behind choosing a particular problem-solving strategy	balance rational and irrational components of a complex or ambiguous problem to evaluate evidence
Transfer knowledge into new contexts	connect information from one setting to another	use information from a previous experience to inform a new idea	transfer and apply information in one setting to enrich another	apply knowledge gained from one context to another unrelated context and identify new meaning	justify reasons for decisions when transferring information to similar and different contexts	identify, plan and justify transference of knowledge to new contexts
Analysing, synthesising and evaluating reasoning and procedures element						
Apply logic and reasoning	identify the thinking used to solve problems in given situations	identify reasoning used in choices or actions in specific situations	identify and apply appropriate reasoning and thinking strategies for particular outcomes	assess whether there is adequate reasoning and evidence to justify a claim, conclusion or outcome	identify gaps in reasoning and missing elements in information	analyse reasoning used in finding and applying solutions, and in choice of resources
Draw conclusions and design a course of action	share their thinking about possible courses of action	identify alternative courses of action or possible conclusions when presented with new information	draw on prior knowledge and use evidence when choosing a course of action or drawing a conclusion	scrutinise ideas or concepts, test conclusions and modify actions when designing a course of action	differentiate the components of a designed course of action and tolerate ambiguities when drawing conclusions	use logical and abstract thinking to analyse and synthesise complex information to inform a course of action
Evaluate procedures and outcomes	check whether they are satisfied with the outcome of tasks or actions	evaluate whether they have accomplished what they set out to achieve	explain and justify ideas and outcomes	evaluate the effectiveness of ideas, products, performances, methods and courses of action against given criteria	explain intentions and justify ideas, methods and courses of action, and account for expected and unexpected outcomes against criteria they have identified	evaluate the effectiveness of ideas, products and performances and implement courses of action to achieve desired outcomes against criteria they have identified