

Critical Thinking

Why study Critical Thinking?

Ever found yourself locked in an argument with a friend who refuses to back down? You know they are wrong, but you cannot pinpoint the mistake they are making. Your frustration grows as you desperately look to land a knockout blow – figuratively speaking, of course. Well, as a student of Critical Thinking, your prospects of future success should be greatly enhanced.

Critical Thinking is devoted to helping you improve your powers of reasoning, and central to this is the study of arguments. In our society and culture we are surrounded by information and arguments that need critical analysis and evaluation, whether it is the case for waging war in Afghanistan or the debate around euthanasia. Critical Thinking will help you to make sense of these sorts of debates and equip you with the tools to put forward your own arguments on the issues of the day.

By pursuing an option in Critical Thinking, you will be tackling the subject that arguably unifies all areas of human knowledge: the ability to make reasoned judgments and to construct effective arguments. You might even win the odd one...

What will I study?

The course is divided into four units across the two years. At AS-level, Unit One provides an introduction to the language of reasoning before moving on to explore techniques used in assessing the credibility of evidence. Unit Two promotes the analytical and compositional skills required to evaluate and develop arguments.



At A2, these skills are developed through their application in the context of ethical reasoning and decision making (Unit Three), and through advanced higher – order critical reasoning challenges (Unit Four). Assessment is in the form of modular exams taken at the end of each level.

Supporting materials are drawn from a wide variety of sources and contexts to help students practise key skills across a diverse range of topics.

Critical Thinking Extras

Proposed activities will seek to give students the opportunity to experience live debate, with venues such as Cambridge Union, Speakers' Corner, and The Old Bailey among a range of possibilities.

Who should I contact for more information?

Stephen Leggott,
Head of Additional Studies.

What can I do with Critical Thinking after sixth form?

At the heart of Critical Thinking are the transferable thinking skills which underlie so many branches of academic study. The ideas and concepts that make up its study have been an element of university courses such as Psychology, Law and Business Studies for many years, and it also usefully complements the study of English Language, History, and Philosophy and Ethics. The skills learned are also at the core of Oxbridge aptitude assessments, whilst for those considering a career in law or medicine, Critical Thinking is excellent preparation for the LNAT and BMAT tests.