

Contents

AIMS

SECTION 1: Opening comments

SECTION 2: The characteristics of effective thinking

SECTION 3: Obstacles to effective thinking

SECTION 4: Symptoms of poor thinking

SECTION 5: Ways to improve thinking

SECTION 6: Handling evidence

SECTION 7: The three parts of an argument

SECTION 8: Developing an argument

SECTION 9: Modifying an argument

SECTION 10: Strengthening an argument

SECTION 11: Closing comments

Aims

The study skills learnt in this section should enable the student to: -

- Understand and memorise the characteristics of effective thinking
- Remove obstacles to effective thinking
- Avoid the common flaws in poor thinking
- Improve thinking ability
- Handle evidence competently
- Develop, modify and strengthen an argument
- Realise that quality in thinking can determine quality of personal character

Section 1: Opening Comments

Effective thinking (or effective reasoning) is the ability to logically '*think through*' and come to a conclusion based upon a proper understanding of all of the available evidence. Effective reasoning tends to improve the quality of any work and creates other numerous (often personally) beneficial results, including assistance with decision-making.

Section 2: The Characteristics of Effective Thinking

Effective thinking involves: -

- 2.1 Accepting the challenge that a new innovation may generate fresh ideas.
- 2.2 Arriving at original solutions to pressing problems
- 2.3 Asking questions and formulating logical answers
- 2.4 Comprehending, interpreting and wisely applying any relevant data
- 2.5 Defining words clearly
- 2.6 Drawing out the full implications of any concept or argument
- 2.7 Expressing instinctive feelings through the use of images, symbols and words
- 2.8 Expressing well-founded and carefully chosen opinions

To purchase a full PDF copy of this Study Aid please proceed to the Payment Bar and once payment has been made place an order through Richard Smith at rjleeds@yahoo.co.uk who will send a copy within three days (August holidays and Christmas period excepted)