

LEVEL 2 AWARD

Thinking and Reasoning Skills:
an inspiring new qualification

ANALYSIS

CONCEPTUAL
THINKING

EVALUATION

CREA
THIN

THINKING AND REASONING SKILLS

PROBLEM
SOLVING

SYNTHESIS

INFORMATION
PROCESSING

With enjoyable and engaging content, Thinking and Reasoning Skills provides fundamental skills for life and learning, and allows different kinds of students to achieve success.

A dark green circle containing the text 'CONCEPTUAL THINKING' in white, uppercase letters.

CONCEPTUAL
THINKING

A medium green circle containing the text 'ANALYSIS' in white, uppercase letters.

ANALYSIS

A large orange circle containing the text 'CREATIVE THINKING' in white, uppercase letters.

CREATIVE
THINKING

A UNIQUE NEW QUALIFICATION

Pilot centres have been very enthusiastic and have spread the word about Thinking and Reasoning Skills, which is now accredited as a full general qualification. With its inspiring mix of reasoning skills and broader problem-solving skills, this exciting new qualification gives students the opportunity to develop thinking in its fullest sense.

JUST SOME OF THE REASONS TO OFFER THINKING AND REASONING SKILLS:

- It's designed to help students develop a wide range of skills including conceptual, enquiry, problem-solving and reasoning skills, along with the ability to question evidence for relevance, significance and credibility
- It's a flexible, standalone qualification that supports learning in other areas. It's designed to complement any course of study at Level 2 or Level 3, including GCSEs, Diplomas, and A Levels
- It's the only skills-based qualification that complements learning and enhances support in all English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects
- It's fully mapped to Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)
- It's created with you in mind. We've built our specification using a clear and easy-to-understand format, as well as providing numerous support resources and a suggested list of topics and explicit skills. It all adds up to a qualification that's practical to teach.

WHO WILL IT SUIT?

This Level 2 qualification carries points broadly equivalent to a short course GCSE. It's suitable for a broad range of students, including:

- Gifted and talented students, in Year 9 or even in Years 7 and 8
- Key Stage 4 students – to support learning across the curriculum and hone thinking skills
- Post-16 students alongside either Level 3 or Level 2 courses
- Adult students.

**“THOROUGHLY
ENJOYED IT, HAD A GREAT
TIME AND LEARNED NEW
SKILLS.”
STUDENT,
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

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PROBLEM
SOLVING

A dark red circle containing the text 'INFORMATION PROCESSING' in white, uppercase letters.

INFORMATION
PROCESSING

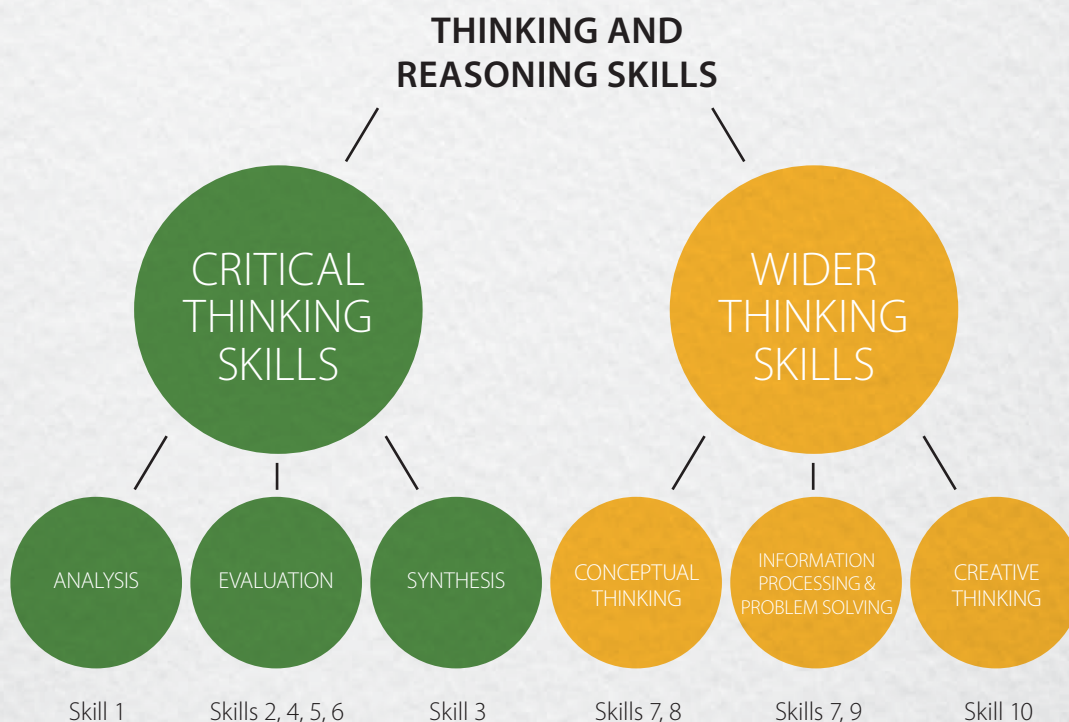
THINKING AND REASONING SKILLS AT A GLANCE

The aim of this qualification is to develop mature, reflective thinkers. The course:

- Is based around ten skills of thinking and reasoning
- Develops skills that can be transferred to other subjects
- Allows different kinds of students to achieve success.

A CAREFULLY PLANNED FAMILY OF SKILLS

This diagram shows how the ten thinking skills form a family of Thinking and Reasoning Skills.



WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DELIVER THE QUALIFICATION?

We expect centres to be able to teach the qualification in approximately 60 guided learning hours. You could deliver it in a variety of ways, including:

- As a separate programme of study over 1.5 hours per week throughout one academic year
- As a combined programme of study with another short course, e.g. Citizenship or Religious Studies
- As a programme embedded in other subjects, e.g. History, Geography or Science
- As an enrichment course for post-16 students
- As a twilight course
- With selected groups of students
- With whole cohorts.

HOW'S THE QUALIFICATION ASSESSED?

There are two written papers, one with pre-release material. Each is one hour long and carries 60 marks. They include a mixture of short and longer answer questions; on each unit, students are asked to develop and present their own arguments as well as answering shorter problem-solving type questions.

The qualification is graded distinction/merit/pass.

SYNTHESIS

PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR YOU

Together with teachers and other experts, we've developed a wide range of support to help you teach this specification with confidence.

YOU CAN ACCESS ALL THESE FREE MATERIALS:

- Schemes of work and lesson plans
- Teacher resources for each skill
- Assessment materials
- Case studies
- Principal Examiner's reports for June 2010 onwards
- Specimen question papers and mark schemes.

You can download the specification and all this support material at www.ocr.org.uk/thinkingreasoningskills

YOU CAN USE ALL THESE FREE SERVICES:

- **Answers@OCR** – a new web-based service where you can browse hot topics and FAQs, or email questions to us. Find it at <http://answers.ocr.org.uk>
- **OCR Interchange** – a secure website for centres which offers a variety of services for exams officers and teachers including the ability to carry out day-to-day administrative online functions quickly and efficiently
- **Join our e-community** where you can share knowledge, views and ideas at <http://community.ocr.org.uk>



www.ocr.org.uk/thinkingreasoningskills

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TRAINING

Our **INSET** Training events provide you with essential information and practical support to help you teach this new specification. Book your place now online at www.ocreventbooker.org.uk using course ref **OTRR1**.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information about this qualification, please call our **Customer Contact Centre** on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk/thinkingreasoningskills

"...By explicitly teaching and assessing Thinking and Reasoning Skills which are otherwise presupposed by other qualifications, the course has clearly increased student self-confidence and progression to other Level 3 courses while making retention and achievement on those courses more secure..."

Sixth Form College

" OUR STUDENTS CAME OUT OF THE EXAM HALL SAYING 'THAT WAS FUN!'"
CENTRE EMAIL, JANUARY 2011