

Teaching Thinking Skills

Alec Fisher, from *Critical Thinking: An Introduction*:

- 'Critical thinking skills: the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments.'
- 'Studying critical thinking involves trying to change the ways in which most of us think. To do this we need extensive practice and feedback.'

A few ideas...

- **Ask students to reflect on their own learning:** ask them how they like to learn, and ask them to reflect on different classroom activities.
- **Encourage questioning:** what do they want to find out at the start of the topic? What is unclear at the end of a topic. 'Ask the expert' activity.
- **Encourage them to use imagination** where you can.
- Use images or words or phrases to create '**odd-one-out**' activities. You could ask different groups to explain different words or images that are the 'odd-one-out'.
- Use **motifs** to summarise a particular subject or topic area. Compare in the class.
- **Prediction activities** using film, fiction or an extract from an article or textbook.
- **Encourage students to investigate the origins and multiple meanings of words**, e.g. words that frequently appear in exam questions.
- **Encourage debate and prioritising of factors** using active methods, e.g. pupils represent different factors or pupils stand in a line depending on how far they agree or disagree with a statement.
- Give pupils **sections from a piece of text** and ask them to try to work out the original order of the information.