

CRITICAL THINKING

About the Subject:

This is an exciting and thought provoking course that is unlike any other! It does not involve learning facts or a large body of knowledge. Instead it focuses on learning how to think and reason, as well as how to write in a coherent and logical way.



Course Content:

The course will be taught over one year, in one teaching period per week. It will concentrate on developing the following knowledge and skills:

- an understanding of the principles, concepts and techniques of critical thinking;
- the skills of communication, problem-solving, analysis and evaluation;
- a framework for moral, social and ethical decision-making;
- a capacity for methodical and critical thought, which will serve as an end in itself as well as a basis for further study.

Assessment:

The assessment of the AS Level course is by two written papers taken in January or June. The AS papers involve multiple-choice questions; short answer questions; and questions requiring longer and more sustained writing. Successful candidates can progress on to the A Level course and sit two further written papers in the summer.

Special Features:

The focus will be on examining and evaluating ways in which arguments are presented and a variety of materials will be considered. It is anticipated that this will lead to "lively" discussions, and will provide excellent practice for the kind of academic debates you will experience at university!

Progression:

Critical Thinking develops academic skills that are highly valued by universities and employers alike, but will primarily provide an excellent preparation for the demands of higher education. Many ex-students have progressed to the most prestigious universities, such as Oxbridge, and on to some of the most competitive courses, such as Law and Medicine.

Suitable Subject Combinations:

Critical Thinking would be beneficial to any student, irrespective of academic discipline. The skills that are developed would be of particular use to students applying for English, History, Law, or any Social Science, although there has been an increasing number of scientists and mathematicians opting for Critical Thinking.

Entry Requirements:

Critical Thinking is offered at AS and A2 level to Year 13 students. It is also offered at A2 Level to year 12 students who have completed the AS level in school.

To find out more visit our website: www.osfc.ac.uk