1. What is an argument and what types of statements does it contain?

When you use critical reasoning, you ultimate aim is usually to figure out whether to accept, or believe, a statement-either someone else´s statement or one of your own.

* Scientific evidence
* Expert opinion
* Relevant examples

2. What are some examples of premise indicator words? Conclusion indicator words?

In an argument, the supporting statements are known as premises; the statement being supported is known as a conclusion. Indicator words are terms that often appear in arguments and signal that a premise or conclusion may be nearby.

3. What is a deductive argument?

Deductive arguments are supposed to give logically conclusive support to their conclusions.

4. What is an inductive argument and how does it differ from a deductive argument?

Inductive are supposed to offer only probable support for their conclusions. The difference of inductive argument and deductive is that in the inductive there is no agreement on when to consider an argument as valid.

5. When is a deductive argument valid? When is it invalid?

Valid is when the premises are true, then the conclusion absolutely has to be true. When a deductive argument does not offer conclusive support for the conclusion, it is said to be invalid.

# 6. When is an inductive argument strong? When is it weak?

An inductive argument that manages to actually give probable support to the conclusion is said to be strong. In a strong argument, if the premises are true, the conclusion is probably true (more likely to be true than not).

An inductive argument that does not give probable support to the conclusion is weak. In a weak argument, if the premises are true the conclusion is no probable (not more likely to be true than not true).

7. How is the counterexample method applied to deductive arguments?

This approach is based on fundamental fact: it is impossible for a valid argument to have true premises and a false conclusion. So to test the validity of an argument, you first invent a twin argument that has exactly the same form as the argument you are examining-but you try to give this new argument true premises and a false conclusion. If you can construct such argument, you have proven that your original argument is invalid.

8. What is the point of deconstructing arguments using diagramming?

9. How can you test moral premises?

We cannot check them by consulting a scientific study or opinion poll as we might when examine nonmoral premises. Usually the best approach is to use counterexamples.

10. When is the use of a slippery slope argument legitimate? When does it constitute a fallacy?

Slippery slope is perfectly legitimate if the premises are solid-that is, if there are good reasons to believe that the first step will lead to ruin. Slippery slope is the fallacy of using dubious premises to argue that doing a particular action will inevitably lead to other actions that will result in disaster, so you should not do that first action.