Exercise – Challenge, Test and Reinvent Ideas

The following questions may be answered verbally with your assessor or you may write down your answers. Please discuss this with your assessor before you commence. Short Answers are required which is approximately 4 typed lines = 50 words, or 5 lines of handwritten text.

Your assessor will take down dot points as a minimum if you choose to answer them verbally.

### Answer the following questions either verbally with your assessor or in writing.

1. What will a successful critical thinker do?

Ask questions and work out what problems they may encounter, research relevant information on the topic to better understand it, find appropriate solutions and test them where possible, assess the problem with an open mind and try to avoid bringing any personal bias into the equation, effectively communicate with others while attempting to solve the problem.

1. Where might you gather information for answers to questions?

Websites, books, online tutorials, forums, information guides, videos, friends, colleagues, past experiences, newspapers, encyclopedias.

1. Outline a method that may be used to sort through information and ideas to identify the central questions, issues, and challenges.

SWOT Analysis is a way of comparing ideas and forming decisions, you do this by mapping out each idea’s strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Comparing them to all ideas and come up with the best solution.

1. How are preconceptions created?

Preconceptions are created based on our past experiences, culture, environment, social expectations, and prior knowledge. Individuals need to be aware of their preconceptions when thinking creatively and coming up with solutions to problems.

1. **Identify and briefly describe 5 different creative thinking techniques that may be used to generate ideas and responses.**

**See/Think/Wonder – a questioning and investigating technique**

**Elaboration Game – an observing and describing technique**

**Circle of Viewpoints – a comparing and connecting technique**

**Socratic Questioning – aims to analyse a concept or idea**

1. Why would you muse on, play around with and have fun with ideas in relation to a perceived objective?

Solutions to problems can’t always be found by a direct/logical approach. It is recommended to entertain other ideas in your mind that aren’t the most obvious or logical options that could be applied. One of these more imaginative alternatives could prove to be a better solution. Don’t let the preconceptions define the final solution.

1. **What are 5 blockers to creative thinking?**

**Intellectual, peer pressure, emotions, risk aversion, environmental.**

1. Why is it important to consider and explore realities that are beyond the current situation?

It is important to consider these possibilities, so you don’t limit yourself to the current boundaries when thinking creatively. There might be a better solution never thought of previously due to no one thinking outside the box, all great advancements generally challenge previous boundaries.

1. **Existing boundaries that need to be considered when generating ideas and responses may relate to what areas? Identify at least 3.**

**Available resources for a potential solution, whether human, financial or physical.**

**Procedures and processes that are usually followed but can be challenged.**

**Specifications required to meet a desired solution, are they necessary?**

1. Risks with ideas and thought processes might involve what? Identify at least 4 things.

Accepting the limitations of one’s own knowledge or capacity.

Changing the rules.

Challenging established authority

Letting go of control.

Taking self or others outside of a comfort zone.