

# CCS1090d

## Academic English Skills

### Week 4 – Session 1

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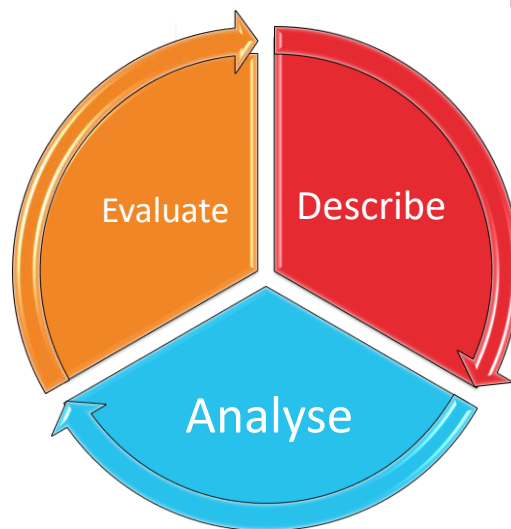
#### Today's agenda

Developing critical thinking

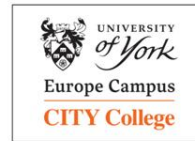
"ICT in the workplace"

What is critical thinking?

How can we think critically??



## Asking meaningful questions



Who?  
What?  
Where?  
When?



Descriptive  
answers

## Asking meaningful questions



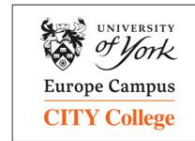
How?  
Why?  
What if?



Analysis

Examine methods and processes,  
reasons and causes, alternative  
options

## Asking meaningful questions



So what?  
What next?



**Evaluation**

What do I think about this?

How does this compare to other research I've read?

➔ Reasonable conclusions/ solutions / recommendations

## Practice



### Can you recognise critical thinking?

In this exercise you are asked to consider three different responses to the question:

"European countries have a goal of recovering or reusing 50% of household waste by 2020. How can we encourage more domestic recycling in the UK?"

Which example do you think demonstrates a high level of critical thinking? Why do you think this?



Please read the response below and select which level of critical thinking it shows.

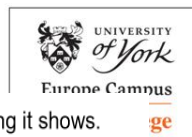
"Recycling in the home isn't always straightforward. Lack of space, confusing packaging and a lack of clear advice from local councils all make it more difficult than it should be. One way to make recycling at home easier, would be to improve education to help everyone understand how to recycle. If all local councils did more to educate people in their areas about recycling, then the situation would improve."

A – Limited critical thinking

☒ B – Some critical thinking

C – A high level of critical thinking

This response outlines some of the barriers to domestic recycling in the UK, and one potential idea to improve the situation. Assessing the barriers is a useful element of thinking critically about the question. However, the usefulness of the response is limited by a lack of evidence and the scale of the solution offered.



Please read the response below and select which level of critical thinking it shows.

"Rates of domestic recycling in the UK must be improved if we are to comply with the 2020 recycling and reuse goal. Looking at established and effective models of recycling in European countries such as Austria shows that this can be done successfully. One area in which Austria scores highly and which the UK could copy, is in creating a high number of well-maintained local community recycling areas which everyone can easily access.

Another strategy, which is less well-tried and tested, involves legislating against the production of products and goods which are not easily reused or recycled. This moves the responsibility of domestic recycling from the consumer to the producer."

A – Limited critical thinking

B – Some critical thinking

☒ C – A high level of critical thinking

This response shows:

- an awareness of the current UK situation
- it also looks beyond that into solutions that explore the wider problem more deeply.
- that it is possible to look at the problem from another perspective i.e. as a producer problem, rather than a consumer problem. This shift of perspective is important, as it demonstrates an ability to see a question in a new way and come up with a novel approach to tackling it.

Please read the response below and select which level of critical thinking it shows.

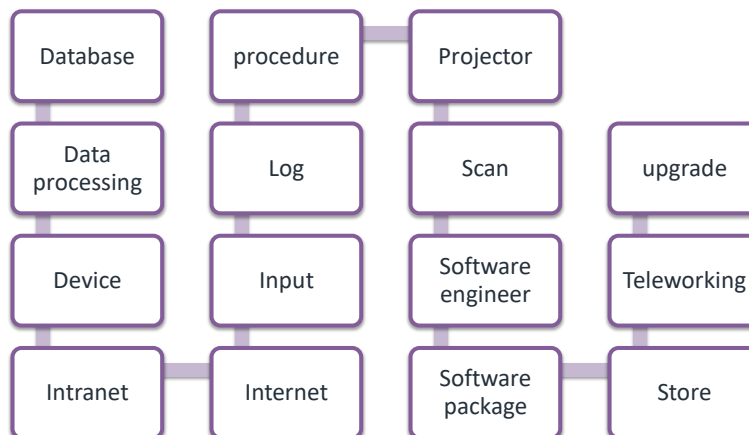
"I think that recycling at home is too difficult for most people at the moment. I don't have enough space in my kitchen to sort through plastic. I have different bins for different types of waste and the labels on a lot of packaging are really confusing. It's hard to know what you can put in the recycling bin. Sometimes if you put the wrong thing into your recycling bin, it gets rejected by the refuse collectors, which makes it even more difficult to sort out."

- ☒ A – Limited critical thinking
- ☐ B – Some critical thinking
- ☐ C – A high level of critical thinking

This response is primarily personal, and reflects the opinions of someone with their own individual experiences of domestic recycling. Whilst they have stated some of the problems that they have with recycling at home, they have not mentioned how the UK might be able to improve home recycling rates.

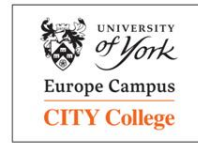
## ICT in the workplace

### ICT: useful vocabulary



# ICT at work

Study these topic sentences and answer the questions below. Then paraphrase them.



ICT plays a key role in business today.

Firstly, ICT is a faster and more efficient way for people to communicate.

ICT is also used to input, store and manage information.

Another area where ICT is important is the retail industry.

Manufacturers use new technology to design and build products.

New technology, then, offers a range of benefits.

However, it is important to understand that there are costs as well as benefits.

Modern technology is here to stay.

1. What types of businesses are discussed?
2. What do you expect to find in the paragraphs?

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## "Changing the way we work"



*Use the Internet to find out more about how work is changing because of ICT*

1. Make notes

2. Write a series of topic sentences which summarise your findings. Make sure you paraphrase appropriately.

3. Report back to the other students. Read the topic sentences and add extra details.

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