**1.Define and explain critical listening and its importance in the public speaking context.**

**Critical listening:**

Critical listening is a form of listening that involves analysis, critical thinking and judgment. Making judgments during listening is often considered as a barrier to understanding a person. We can be said to be engaged in critical listening when the goal is to evaluate or scrutinize what is being said. Critical listening is a much more active behavior than informational listening and usually involves some sort of problem solving or decision making. Critical listening is akin to critical reading; both involve analysis of the information being received and alignment with what we already know or believe. Whereas informational listening may be mostly concerned with receiving facts and/or new information - critical listening is about analyzing opinion and making a judgement.

When the word ‘critical’ is used to describe listening, reading or thinking it does not necessarily mean that you are claiming that the information you are listening to is somehow faulty or flawed. Rather, critical listening means engaging in what you are listening to by asking yourself questions such as, ‘what is the speaker trying to say?’ or ‘what is the main argument being presented?’, ‘how does what I’m hearing differ from my beliefs, knowledge or opinion?’. Critical listening is, therefore, fundamental to true learning.

Many day-to-day decisions that we make are based on some form of ‘critical’ analysis, whether it be critical listening, reading or thought. Our opinions, values and beliefs are based on our ability to process information and formulate our own feelings about the world around us as well as weigh up the pros and cons to make an informed decision. It is often important, when listening critically, to have an open-mind and not be biased by stereotypes or preconceived ideas. By doing this you will become a better listener and broaden your knowledge and perception of other people and your relationships.

Critical Listening is important in public speaking context it allows listeners to:

* For a speaker, the goal is to communicate a message clearly and persuasively. Critical listeners are more likely to understand the speaker's intended message, helping to achieve effective communication.
* Critical listening encourages active engagement from the audience. Engaged listeners are more likely to pay attention, participate in discussions, and retain information.
* Speakers can benefit from critical listeners' feedback. Constructive criticism helps speakers identify areas for improvement, refine their delivery, and enhance the overall quality of their presentations.
* Critical listeners are better equipped to understand complex or nuanced messages. This is particularly important in public speaking contexts where the information may be detailed or require deeper comprehension.

**2.What are the six distinct ways to improve the ability to critically listen to speeches.**

**3.Evaluate what it means to be an ethical listener.**

**4.How informational listening is different from critical listening?**