



COURSE NAME: Critical Thinking

FACILITATOR: Susan Alexander FAIM MAICD BA (Hons) MCogSci MLS

COURSE LENGTH: Basic Course - 2 consecutive days

Advanced Course - Additional 2 days (non-consecutive)

The course is designed for personnel whose job performance depends upon their ability to think. Critical thinking is the ability to identify, comprehend, analyse, evaluate and synthesise data, information and ideas - and then be able to explain one's thoughts, ideas and thinking processes to others.

The course provides participants with methods and tools for thinking and expressing. The course facilitator is a highly experienced and skilled teacher. Susan Alexander's postgraduate studies (in Sociology, Cognitive Science, Law and the Philosophy of Mind) mean that the course material is grounded in solid research.

TARGET GROUP: (Assumed level of knowledge, skill and aptitude for the course)

- Suitable for all personnel whose ability to think is critical to their job performance, especially those who are required to provide evidence of reasoning in decision making.
- Appropriate for all levels from Senior Executives and middle managers through to more junior personnel on a development path.
- Course can be streamed but it is not essential as the course format is based upon group practice of methods and tools together with individual coaching to enhance individual skills within a group setting.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course participants will:

- Be familiar with the crucial elements of critical thinking and the clear expression of ideas

- Understand key cognitive limitations on thinking
- Know how to recognise and disarm common logical fallacies
- Be able to identify flaws in 'research'
- Be able to discriminate between 'straight' and 'crooked' thinking

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: (How will learning outcomes be assessed?)

- The facilitator provides feedback during each of the course stages.
- Participants, as the immediate audience for each other, will have opportunities to offer structured and constructive feedback on each other's progress as thinkers.
- At the conclusion of exercises and scenarios, participants will be able to self-assess how well they did at the thinking task.

FORMAT OF THE SESSION: (Workbooks and handouts are provided)

- The course material is delivered in a series of mini-lectures interspersed with focussed exercises.
- Thinking exercises are de-briefed.
- The course is predominantly interactive and participatory.

NOTE: The *Critical Thinking* curriculum is customised to your specific requirements, which typically vary between organisations and work groups.