



# Thinking Skills Lesson Plan

## **Week 1: Introduction to the Thinking Skills Assessment and Basic Thinking Skills**

**Focus:** Understanding test format, introduction to critical thinking, and basic problem-solving.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Introduction to the Thinking Skills Assessment test (structure, timing, and sections).
  - Key skills required: critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication.
- **Activities:**
  - Solve simple logical and numerical reasoning problems.
  - Group discussion on the importance of reasoning skills in real-world scenarios.
- **Homework:**
  - Basic reasoning exercises.

## **Week 2: Critical Reasoning – Identifying Conclusions**

**Focus:** Building a foundation in identifying conclusions in arguments.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Introduction to critical reasoning: What are conclusions, and how to identify them?
  - Recognizing key phrases and signals for conclusions.
- **Activities:**
  - Analysing passages to identify conclusions.
  - Group exercises on spotting key conclusion indicators.
- **Homework:**
  - Practice conclusion-identification exercises.



### **Week 3: Problem Solving – Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning**

**Focus:** Building problem-solving skills through quantitative reasoning.

- **Class Overview:**

- Basic quantitative reasoning (percentages, ratios, basic algebra).
- How to approach Thinking Skills Assessment-style quantitative problems.

- **Activities:**

- Solve simple percentage and ratio problems.
- Class discussion on quantitative reasoning strategies.

- **Homework:**

- Quantitative reasoning practice problems.

### **Week 4: Assumptions in Critical Reasoning**

**Focus:** Learning to identify assumptions in arguments.

- **Class Overview:**

- What are assumptions, and why are they important?
- Identifying assumptions in reasoning problems.

- **Activities:**

- Exercises on spotting hidden assumptions in arguments.
- Group discussion on real-life examples of assumptions.

- **Homework:**

- Assumption-identification exercises.



## **Week 5: Problem Solving – Data Interpretation and Graphs**

**Focus:** Introduction to data interpretation and problem-solving using graphs.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Reading and interpreting graphs, charts, and tables.
  - Solving Thinking Skills Assessment-style data interpretation problems.
- **Activities:**
  - Practice interpreting data from visual formats.
  - Solve sample questions based on graphs and tables.
- **Homework:**
  - Data interpretation exercises.

## **Week 6: Flaws in Critical Reasoning**

**Focus:** Identifying logical flaws in arguments.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Common flaws in reasoning (e.g., straw man, ad hominem).
  - Recognizing flawed arguments in Thinking Skills Assessment-style questions.
- **Activities:**
  - Exercises on spotting flaws in reasoning.
  - Group discussion on flawed reasoning examples.
- **Homework:**
  - Flaw-identification exercises.



## **Week 7: Problem Solving – Advanced Quantitative Reasoning**

**Focus:** Advanced techniques in quantitative reasoning, including multi-step problems.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Advanced problem-solving strategies: Multi-step problems.
  - Solving Thinking Skills Assessment-style algebraic and quantitative reasoning problems.
- **Activities:**
  - Practice solving more complex quantitative problems.
  - Class discussion on solving multi-step problems.
- **Homework:**
  - Advanced quantitative reasoning problems.

## **Week 8: Evaluation of Arguments**

**Focus:** Developing skills to evaluate the strength of arguments.

- **Class Overview:**
  - How to evaluate evidence and assess the strength of arguments.
  - Identifying strong vs. weak arguments in Thinking Skills Assessment questions.
- **Activities:**
  - Practice exercises on evaluating different types of arguments.
  - Group discussion on evaluating arguments in real-world scenarios.
- **Homework:**
  - Argument evaluation exercises.



## **Week 9: Problem Solving – Abstract Reasoning and Patterns**

**Focus:** Introduction to abstract reasoning and visual pattern recognition.

- **Class Overview:**

- What is abstract reasoning, and how to solve pattern-based problems?
- Recognizing visual and logical patterns in Thinking Skills Assessment questions.

- **Activities:**

- Solve visual puzzles and pattern-based reasoning problems.
- Class discussion on strategies for abstract reasoning.

- **Homework:**

- Abstract reasoning practice problems.

## **Week 10: Critical Reasoning – Inference and Deductive Reasoning**

**Focus:** Strengthening inference-making and deductive reasoning skills.

- **Class Overview:**

- How to make logical inferences from a given set of information.
- Deductive reasoning and its application in Thinking Skills Assessment.

- **Activities:**

- Exercises on making inferences and deductions from text.
- Group work on complex inference problems.

- **Homework:**

- Inference-making exercises.



## **Week 11: Problem Solving – Working Under Time Pressure**

**Focus:** Time management strategies and solving problems under timed conditions.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Time management strategies for Thinking Skills Assessment (how to pace yourself in the exam).
  - Solving multi-step problems quickly and accurately.
- **Activities:**
  - Timed problem-solving exercises to simulate exam conditions.
  - Group discussion on the best time-saving techniques.
- **Homework:**
  - Timed problem-solving practice.

## **Week 12: Review of Critical Reasoning Concepts**

**Focus:** Consolidating critical reasoning skills and reviewing core concepts.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Comprehensive review of key critical reasoning concepts (conclusions, assumptions, flaws).
  - Addressing common challenges and misconceptions.
- **Activities:**
  - Group exercises on identifying conclusions, assumptions, and flaws in longer passages.
  - Class discussion on overcoming reasoning challenges.
- **Homework:**
  - Practise critical reasoning problems.



## **Week 13: Problem Solving – Advanced Abstract and Quantitative Reasoning**

**Focus:** Mastering complex abstract reasoning and quantitative problems.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Advanced problem-solving techniques for abstract reasoning (visual patterns).
  - Solving complex Thinking Skills Assessment-style quantitative problems.
- **Activities:**
  - Practice solving high-difficulty abstract and quantitative problems.
  - Class discussion on advanced problem-solving strategies.
- **Homework:**
  - Advanced abstract and quantitative reasoning problems.

## **Week 14: Full-Length Mock Test**

**Focus:** Simulating the real Thinking Skills Assessment exam through a full-length mock test.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Full-length Thinking Skills Assessment-style mock test (timed, covering both reasoning and problem-solving sections).
- **Activities:**
  - Mock test simulation
  - Initial feedback on performance.
- **Homework:**
  - Review areas where students struggled in the mock test.



## **Week 15: Mock Test Review and Targeted Feedback**

**Focus:** Detailed feedback on mock test performance and focused practice on weak areas.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Detailed analysis of mock test performance, including key areas for improvement.
  - Class discussion on strategies for improving weaknesses.
- **Activities:**
  - Focused exercises on individual weak areas.
  - Practice problems based on mock test feedback.
- **Homework:**
  - Practice on areas identified for improvement.

## **Week 16: Final Preparation and Exam Strategy**

**Focus:** Final review of concepts, tips, and strategies for success on the exam day.

- **Class Overview:**
  - Final review of reasoning and problem-solving concepts.
  - Last-minute tips and strategies for exam day success.
- **Activities:**
  - Group discussion on exam mindset, time management, and how to handle pressure.
  - Solving quick practice problems for confidence-building.
- **Homework:**
  - Final revision of weak areas and last-minute preparation.





### **Ongoing Support Throughout the Course:**

- **Daily Homework (Mock Test):** Regular problem sets based on each week's class focus.
- **Personalised Feedback:** Regular one-on-one mentorship to address individual learning challenges.
- **Mock Test Feedback:** Detailed review of test performance after each mock exam.