

Test Bank

The Power of Critical Thinking, Seventh Edition
Lewis Vaughn

Chapter 1: The Power of Critical Thinking

Multiple Choice

(Questions that appear on student site are marked with a plus sign.)

1. The systematic evaluation or formulation of beliefs by rational standards is known as
- logic.
 - critical thinking.
 - creative thinking.
 - argumentation.

Answer: b

2. The word “critical” in critical thinking refers to
- using careful judgment or judicious evaluation.
 - a fault-finding attitude.
 - attempts to win an argument.
 - a lack of respect for other people.

Answer: a

- +3. Critical thinking is fundamentally concerned with the _____ of our beliefs.
- cause
 - psychological basis
 - quality
 - practical impact

Answer: c

- +4. An assertion that something is or is not the case is known as a(n)
- predicate.
 - premise.
 - argument.
 - statement.

Answer: d

- +5. Statements backed by good reasons are
- beyond criticism.
 - impossible to doubt.
 - worthy of acceptance.
 - virtually certain.

Answer: c

- +6. In critical thinking, the assertion of reasons in support of a statement is known as a(n)
- explanation.
 - claim.
 - argument.
 - reason.
- Answer: c
7. Words that frequently accompany arguments and signal that a premise or conclusion is present are known as
- indicator words.
 - implicit premises.
 - indicator verbs.
 - argument components.
- Answer: a
- +8. Probably the best advice for anyone trying to uncover or dissect arguments is
- find the premises first.
 - paraphrase the argument.
 - determine the truth of premises.
 - find the conclusion first.
- Answer: d
9. According to the text, if you passively accept beliefs that have been handed to you by your culture, then those beliefs are
- worthy of acceptance.
 - not really yours.
 - critically examined.
 - worthy of rejection.
- Answer: b
10. Critical thinking is _____ because it involves distinct procedures and methods.
- rational
 - important
 - systematic
 - logical
- Answer: c
11. According to the text, the study of critical thinking tends to make people
- excessively critical and cynical.
 - enlightened and empowered.
 - creatively constrained.
 - emotionally cold.
- Answer: b
- +12. Rather than giving us reasons for believing that something is the case, a(n) _____ tells us why or how something is the case.

- a. premise
- b. explanation
- c. argument
- d. inference

Answer: b

13. According to the text, critical thinking actually complements
- a. traditional ideas and values.
 - b. our feelings and emotions.
 - c. prejudices and stereotypes.
 - d. popular beliefs and conventions.

Answer: b

- +14. In an argument, the statements given in support of another statement are called
- a. explanations.
 - b. conclusions.
 - c. premises.
 - d. claims.

Answer: c

15. In most extended argumentative passages, premises and conclusions
- a. make up a large portion of the total wordage.
 - b. make up only a small portion of the total wordage.
 - c. are usually clearly labeled.
 - d. are equal in number.

Answer: b

- +16. The process of reasoning from a premise or premises to a conclusion based on those premises is called
- a. critical thinking.
 - b. explanation.
 - c. inference.
 - d. argumentation.

Answer: c

17. Words like *because*, *since*, and *given that* are known as
- a. premise indicator words.
 - b. logical connectives.
 - c. conclusion indicator words.
 - d. argument components.

Answer: a

18. A central goal of higher education is to enable students to
- a. justify preconceived notions.
 - b. avoid questioning cultural beliefs.
 - c. confirm strongly held ideas.

d. think critically and carefully for themselves.

Answer: d

19. Critical thinking is the enemy of

- a. unwarranted assumptions.
- b. emotions.
- c. persuasion.
- d. creative thinking.

Answer: a

+20. The study of good reasoning and the rules that govern it is known as

- a. critical thinking.
- b. philosophy.
- c. argumentation.
- d. logic.

Answer: d

21. These two statements— “The *Wall Street Journal* says that people should invest heavily in stocks. Therefore, investing in stocks is a smart move” —constitute

- a. no argument.
- b. an explanation.
- c. an argument.
- d. two conclusions.

Answer: c

22. Words like *therefore*, *thus*, and *consequently* are known as

- a. premise indicator words.
- b. logical connectives.
- c. conclusion indicator words.
- d. argument components.

Answer: c

+23. The statement that the premises of an argument are intended to support is called the

- a. claim.
- b. conclusion.
- c. inference.
- d. explanation.

Answer: b

24. The sentence— “Going to war in Iraq was a mistake” —is an example of a(n)

- a. argument.
- b. argument with an implied premise.
- c. implicit conclusion.
- d. statement.

Answer: d

25. The sentence— “Stop telling lies”— is a(n)
- a. statement.
 - b. command or request.
 - c. argument.
 - d. explanation.
- Answer: b
26. A consequence of not thinking critically is
- a. personal success.
 - b. a loss of personal freedom.
 - c. creative constraint.
 - d. greater control.
- Answer: b
27. According to the text, critical thinking and creativity are
- a. the same thing.
 - b. complementary.
 - c. mutually exclusive.
 - d. entirely unrelated.
- Answer: b
28. Once you know what conclusion someone is trying to establish, identifying the argument’s premises becomes
- a. more difficult.
 - b. unnecessary.
 - c. easier.
 - d. impossible.
- Answer: c
29. Which of the following sentences is not a statement?
- a. The guest speakers were boring.
 - b. A triangle has three sides.
 - c. Please mind your manners.
 - d. Sexual harassment should be a crime.
- Answer: c
30. In critical thinking, an argument is a
- a. feud.
 - b. set of statements attacking an opponent.
 - c. set of statements that prove empirical claims beyond all doubt.
 - d. set of statements intending to provide reasons for accepting another statement.
- Answer: d

True/False

(Questions that appear on student site are marked with a plus sign.)

1. The cause of your beliefs is the central concern of critical thinking.
 - a. True
 - b. FalseAnswer: False
- +2. In critical thinking, beliefs are evaluated by how well they are supported by reasons.
 - a. True
 - b. FalseAnswer: True
- +3. Critical thinking is not about how you think, but what you think.
 - a. True
 - b. FalseAnswer: False
4. Critical thinking can go hand in hand with creativity because it can be used to assess and enhance our creative productions.
 - a. True
 - b. FalseAnswer: True
- +5. Statements, or claims, are either true or false.
 - a. True
 - b. FalseAnswer: True
6. When evaluating statements, the strength of your belief should depend on the quality of reasons in favor of the statements.
 - a. True
 - b. FalseAnswer: True
- +7. Critical thinking is mainly about proving people wrong.
 - a. True
 - b. FalseAnswer: False
8. Statements given in support of another statement are called premises.
 - a. True
 - b. FalseAnswer: True
9. A declaration of beliefs can sometimes constitute an argument.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Answer: False

+10. Even in good arguments, premises are not always explicit.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: True

+11. An argument is a group of statements in which some of them (the premises) are intended to support another of them (the conclusion).

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: True

+12. If you clearly state your beliefs on a subject, then you have presented an argument.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: False

+13. An argument tells us why or how something is the case, but an explanation gives us reasons for believing that something is the case.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: False

+14. The statement—"People have a respect for life because they adhere to certain ethical standards"—is an explanation.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: True

+15. Probably the best advice for anyone trying to identify arguments is to look for the conclusion first.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: True

16. According to the text, critical thinking provides the best possible defense against error, manipulation, and prejudice.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: True

17. Critical thinking and logic are indistinguishable.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: False

18. In ordinary prose, arguments usually are clearly labeled.
a. True
b. False
Answer: False
19. In any kind of nonfiction writing, arguments can never be mixed with emotional or passionate material.
a. True
b. False
Answer: False
20. A bona fide argument has only one conclusion and one premise.
a. True
b. False
Answer: False

Short Answer/Short Essay

1. What is the difference between persuasion and critical thinking?
2. Why is it important to critically examine your beliefs?
3. Why do some people believe that critical thinking is opposed to creativity, and why is this belief mistaken according to the text?
4. In what ways is critical thinking personally empowering?
5. Why are arguments sometimes difficult to identify?
6. What is the role of reasons in critical thinking?
7. What are indicator words and how can they help you identify an argument?
8. How does an explanation differ from an argument?
9. What is probably the best advice for anyone trying to evaluate an argument? What is the rationale behind this advice?
10. Give an example of an argument about an important social issue.