**Thinking**:
Thinking in a simple word is creating words and ideas inside your own head.

**Critical thinking:**

Critical thinking includes a complex combination of skills. Among the main characteristics are the following:

**Rationality**

We are thinking critically when we

- rely on reason rather than emotion,
- require evidence, ignore no known evidence, and follow evidence where it leads, and
- are concerned more with finding the best explanation than being right analyzing apparent confusion and asking questions.

**Self-awareness**

We are thinking critically when we

- weigh the influences of motives and bias, and
- recognize our own assumptions, prejudices, biases, or point of view.

**Honesty**

We are thinking critically when we recognize emotional impulses, selfish motives, nefarious purposes, or other modes of self-deception.

**Open-mindedness**

We are thinking critically when we

- evaluate all reasonable inferences
- consider a variety of possible viewpoints or perspectives,
- remain open to alternative interpretations
- accept a new explanation, model, or paradigm because it explains the evidence better, is simpler, or has fewer inconsistencies or covers more data
- accept new priorities in response to a reevaluation of the evidence or reassessment of our real interests, and
- do not reject unpopular views out of hand.
Discipline

We are thinking critically when we

- are precise, meticulous, comprehensive, and exhaustive
- resist manipulation and irrational appeals, and
- Avoid snap judgments.

Barriers to Critical thinking:

1. Memory
2. Emotion

Six Major Thinking Skills

Knowledge
Knowledge involves remembering or recalling appropriate, previously learned information to draw out factual (usually right or wrong) answers

Comprehension
Comprehension involves grasping or understanding the meaning of informational materials.

Application involves applying previously learned information (or knowledge) to new and unfamiliar situations.

Analysis
Analysis involves breaking down information into parts, or examining (and trying to understand the organizational structure of) information.

Synthesis
Synthesis involves applying prior knowledge and skills to combine elements into a pattern not clearly there before.

Evaluation
Evaluation involves judging or deciding according to some set of criteria, without real right or wrong answers.