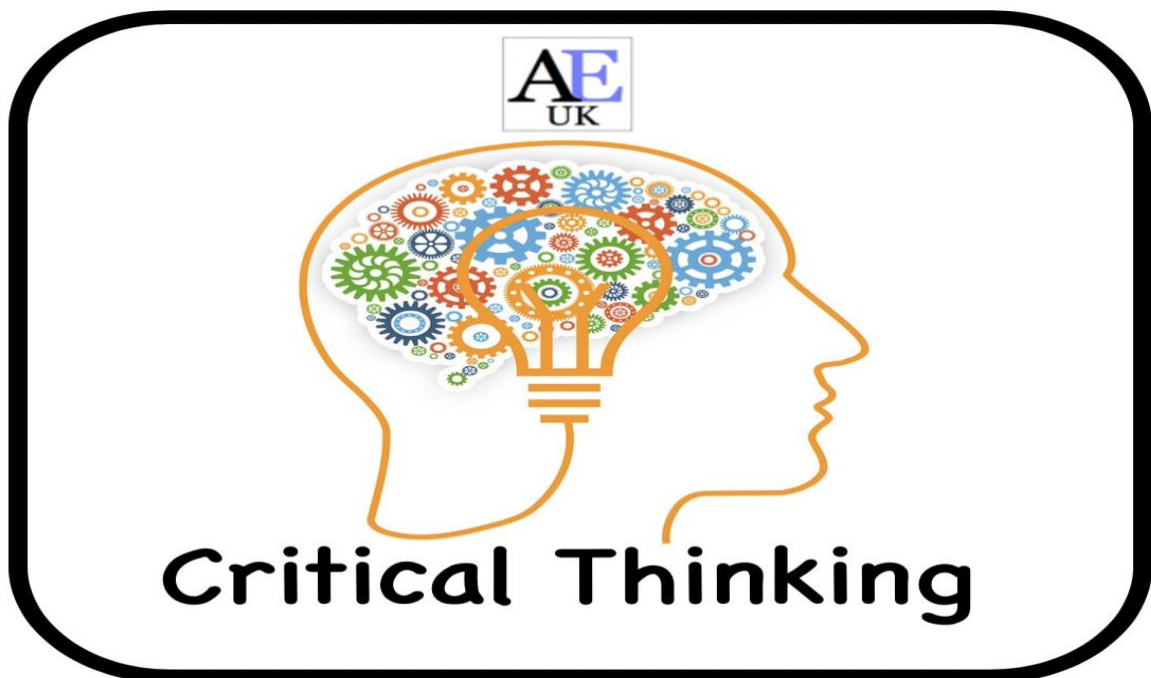




# Critical Thinking



## Reading Text Analysis 2

The cost-of-living crisis

EXAMPLE

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## Critical Thinking: Reading Text Analysis 2

### EXAMPLE

#### Lesson Plan

**Aim:** to provide quality practice in developing analytical critical reading skills.

#### 1. Preparation

- Photocopy the reading text 'Critical thinking: cost-of-living crisis' for each student. [Page 3](#)
- Photocopy the answer sheet (one sheet between two). [Page 4-5](#)

#### 2. Introduction

- Ask students to discuss: 'What is critical reading?'
- Try to elicit key terms and ideas: *questioning / critique / analysis / evaluation / validity / evidence / bias / opinion / stance / credibility / reliability / synthesis*
- **EXTRA IDEAS! Go here:** *Critical thinking Dictogloss / Critical thinking videos / Bloom's Higher-level thinking skills* <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/critical-thinking>

#### 3. Set up

- Hand out the reading text 'Critical analysis text: cost-of-living crisis'.
- Explain that you want the students to apply the critical thinking skills of analysing and evaluating to the text.
- Give examples of the two terms:  
**Analysis is to draw connections among ideas:** to examine / to question / to compare.  
**Evaluation is to justify a stand or decision:** to judge / to identify support and credibility / to appraise / to critique.

#### 4. The lesson

- As a whole group do the first paragraph together. **Explain there are 3 possible problems.**
- Give the students 5-10 minutes to read the paragraph and try to identify what in the paragraph can be questioned or critiqued.
- Students can do internet research to check information.
- Feedback individually or as a group using the answer sheet for guidance.
- Students work individually: Allow the students 20-30 minutes to read and highlight possible areas of question, critique or appraisal. **Explain there are 10 possible problems to find.**

#### 5. Feedback:

- Feedback in pairs - students share their ideas and justify their answers.
- Feedback as a whole class. Teacher highlights key answers and elicits other possible critiques.

**Disclaimer:** There are a variety of different answers to this activity.

## Critical Analysis Text: The cost-of-living crisis **EXAMPLE**

C. Wilson (2024)

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting almost everyone across the world. This specific crisis refers to a scenario in which the cost of everyday essentials like energy and food is rising much faster than average household incomes. As a result, inflation has risen to incredibly high levels over this last year to over 10.5% compared to the year before. To keep inflation low and stable, the Bank of England generally sets an inflation target of 2%. This helps everyone plan for the future (BoE, 2023).

\_\_\_\_\_ agree \_\_\_\_\_ from the recent \_\_\_\_\_ Feb 2022. The biggest impact has been on grain and gas prices. Russia has dramatically reduced gas sales \_\_\_\_\_ the price \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_ of energy in the UK with most households in England being heated by mains gas and the majority of \_\_\_\_\_ power stations (\_\_\_\_\_).

\_\_\_\_\_ the fastest pace for years \_\_\_\_\_ from the Office for National Statistics. Food \_\_\_\_\_ vegetable oil (+72%), pasta (+64%), tea \_\_\_\_\_ (ONS, 2022). Prices of \_\_\_\_\_ outside the EU are increasing twice as quickly \_\_\_\_\_ produce domestically, rising more than \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ response for rising \_\_\_\_\_. This makes \_\_\_\_\_ expensive and people spend less so the economy slows down and as a result this prevents companies \_\_\_\_\_ Lower \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ means they stop rising as quickly. The Bank of England thinks inflation peaked in mid 2023 and expects \_\_\_\_\_ the year (\_\_\_\_\_)

The U.K. Government's solution has been the \_\_\_\_\_ through a \_\_\_\_\_ irrespective of household income, to help with energy bills over the winters which have doubled in the past \_\_\_\_\_ imposed \_\_\_\_\_, provided a £150 rebate on council tax bands A-D, and added a 5p reduction on fuel per litre. Overall, these solutions \_\_\_\_\_ raising interest rates has brought inflation down to 3.9% (Jan, 2024) but there is still a long way to go.

### References

BBC (2023). *What is the UK \_\_\_\_\_*? [online]. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-121963> [Accessed 6 Jan 2024].

\_\_\_\_\_ *we doing about the rising cost of living?* [\_\_\_\_\_] [<https://www.bankengland.co.uk/cost-of-living>] [Accessed 2 Jan 2024].

Gov UK (2022). \_\_\_\_\_ [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-help-energy-bills/> [Accessed 4 Jan 2024].

\_\_\_\_\_ *of living*. [online]. \_\_\_\_\_ [<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainer/cost-living-crisis>] [Accessed 4 Jan 2024].

ONS \_\_\_\_\_ [online]. Available at: \_\_\_\_\_ [Accessed 6 Jan 2024].

## Possible critical evaluation **ANSWERS** EXAMPLE

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting almost everyone across the world<sup>1</sup>. This specific crisis refers to a scenario in which the cost of everyday essentials like energy and food is rising much faster than average household incomes. As a result, inflation has risen to incredibly high levels over this last year to over 10.5% compared to the year before<sup>2</sup>. To keep inflation low and stable, the Bank of England generally sets an inflation target of 2%. This helps everyone plan for the future<sup>3</sup> (BoE, 2023).

(1) Not every country has suffered e.g., China, India, South America are exceptions (WPR, 2024).

(2) Missing information. When did it hit 10.5%? It hit this in February 2023. What was it the year before? It was 4.6%. What is it at present? 3.9% Jan 2024 (ONS, 2024).

(3) Missing information or vague. Does it? How? The missing explanation is that if inflation is too high or it moves around a lot, it is difficult for businesses to set the right prices and for people to plan their spending. But if ....

**ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...**