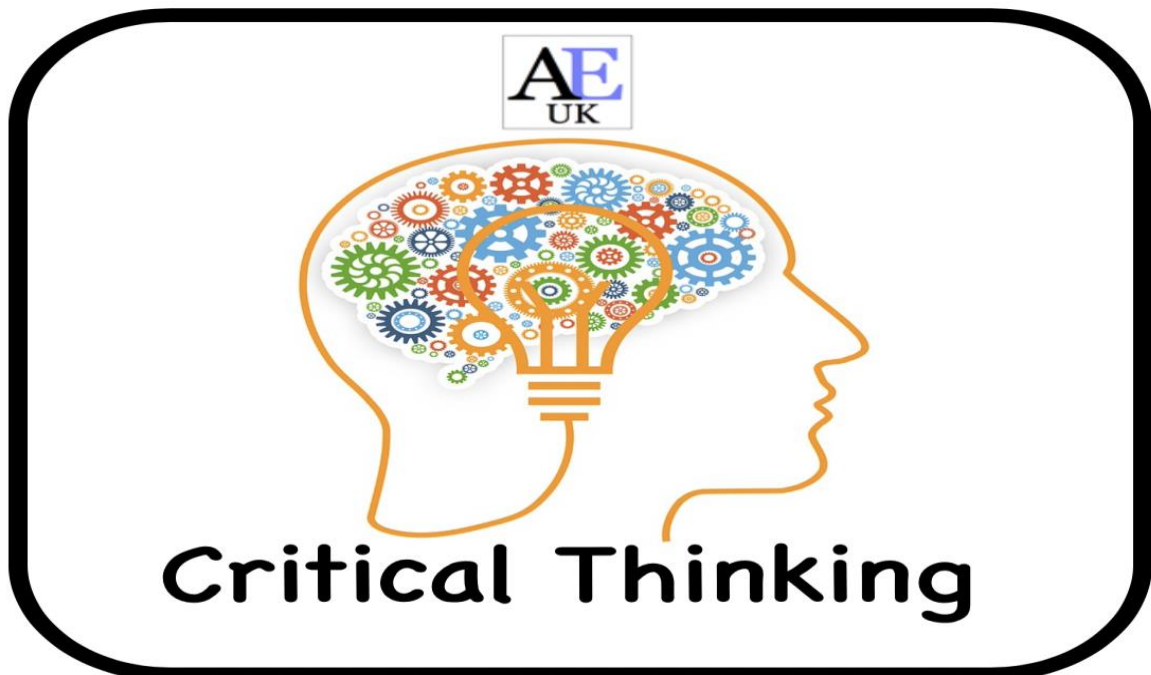


# AE Academic English UK

## Critical Thinking



## Reading Text Analysis 1

Going to University

EXAMPLE

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## Critical Thinking: Reading Text Analysis 1

### Lesson Plan

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

#### 1. Preparation

- Reading text 'Going to University' for each student. [Page 3](#)
- 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 'Going to University'.
- 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 three possible problems (in fact there are four but finding three is good).**
- Give the students 5-10 minutes to read the paragraph and try to identify areas in the paragraph can be questioned or critiqued.
- Students can conduct 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 ten 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.

## Going to University EXAMPLE

C. Wilson (2024)

The UK is the world leader in providing higher education with over 50,000 courses and 395 universities. Higher education has become increasingly popular over the last two decades with most young people choosing to go to university than work. In fact, 2022 saw a record level of 767,000 students attending university for their first year on a degree course. This trend is set to increase year on-year in the future.

[REDACTED]. successful increase is due to the introduction of student loans back in 1996 making university accessible for all (UK Gov, 2023). [REDACTED] in the UK can [REDACTED]. from disadvantaged backgrounds, they can now get themselves out of the cycle of poverty. According to UCAS (2023) a [REDACTED]. were accepted [REDACTED] 2022 compared to 16.1% in 2018.

This inclusivity is a positive step forward for universities who are now offering equal opportunities for all. Examples of this are shown in [REDACTED]. In addition, the last ten years has seen also seen gender equality in education and now there [REDACTED] clear differences in subject choice with 74% of males studying engineering, construction [REDACTED] female [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] over 300,000 students studying. This is closely followed by medicine with approximately [REDACTED] course is law [REDACTED] are agriculture and veterinary science [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is now a prerequisite for achieving a higher- [REDACTED] accessing a middle-class lifestyle. Many [REDACTED] well-paid jobs [REDACTED] pay back their student loans.

Overall, many graduates generally claim that [REDACTED] It can be a [REDACTED], meet new people and experience independence. For many, it is a personal journey of discovery [REDACTED] global job [REDACTED]

### References

[REDACTED] *most popular undergraduate courses in [REDACTED]* Education (THE). Available at: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/news/least-and-most-popular-undergraduate-courses-uk> [Accessed 11 Jan. 2024].

UCAS (2023). [REDACTED]. UCAS. Available at: <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis> [Accessed 11 Jan 2024].

[REDACTED] *Widening participation [REDACTED]* at <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/widening-participation-in-higher-education#> [Accessed 11 Jan. 2024].

## Possible critical evaluation **ANSWERS**

### EXAMPLE

The UK is the world leader <sup>(1)</sup> in providing higher education with over 50,000 courses and 395 universities. Higher education has become increasingly popular over the last two decades with most young people <sup>(2)</sup> choosing to go to university than work. In fact, 2022 saw a record level of 767,000 students attending university <sup>(3)</sup> for their first year on a degree course. This trend is set to increase year on-year <sup>(4)</sup> in the future.

- 1) Untrue. America is the world leader in education.
- 2) Untrue. Most young people do not go to university. According to UK GOV (2024) statistics, only 35.8% of young people went to university in 2023.
- 3) Where has this data come from? No source.
- 4) Untrue. In fact, 2023 figures are lower at 757,000 (UK Gov, 2024). Could 2022 have been the peak in student numbers?

\_\_\_\_\_ . successful \_\_\_\_\_  
introduction of student loans back in 1996 making university accessible for all (UK Gov, 2023).  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the UK can \_\_\_\_\_. from  
disadvantaged backgrounds, they can now get themselves out of the cycle of poverty. According to  
UCAS (2023) a \_\_\_\_\_ were accepted  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2022 compared to 16.1% in 2018.

- 5) The introduction of student loans is true up to a certain extent in that it has improved accessibility. But what \_\_\_\_\_? The average student loan debt is £45,600 (UK Gov, 2023).

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