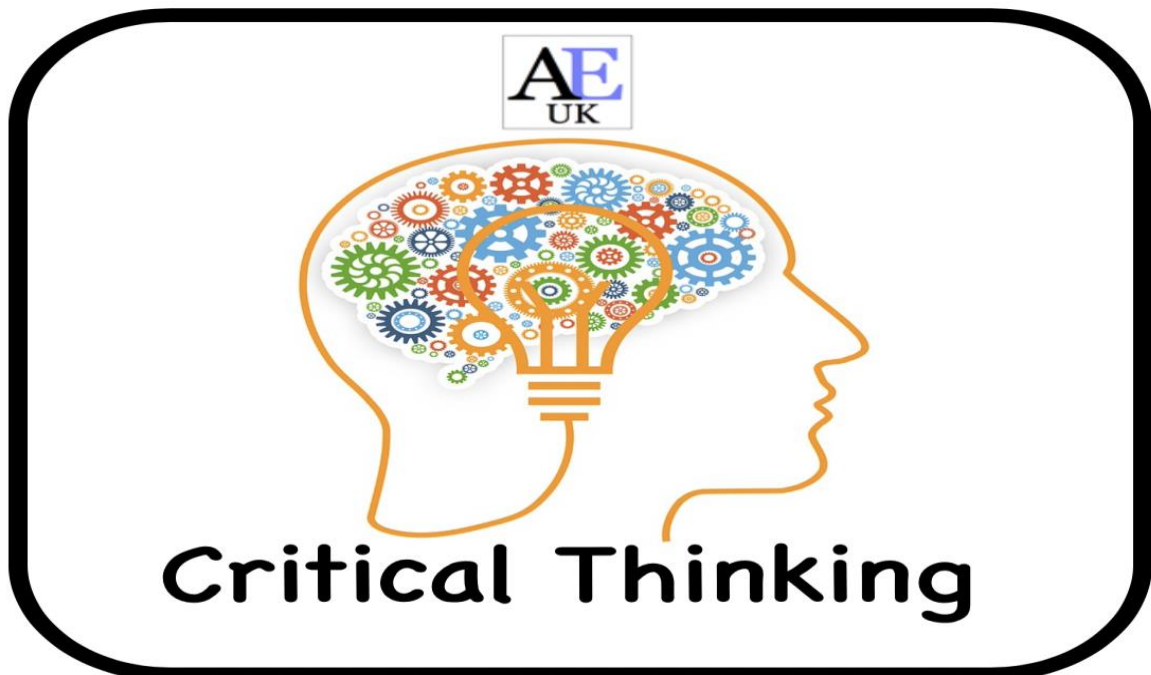


AE Academic English UK

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

- Reading text 'The Cost-of-Living Crisis' 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 'The 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 three possible problems.**
- 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.

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

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Possible critical evaluation **ANSWERS** EXAMPLE

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting almost everyone across the world¹. 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 before². To keep inflation low and stable, the Bank of England generally sets an inflation target of 2%. This helps everyone plan for the future³ (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

Many experts agree that the main cause for the crisis is from the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine in Feb 2022. The biggest impact has been on grain...

ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...