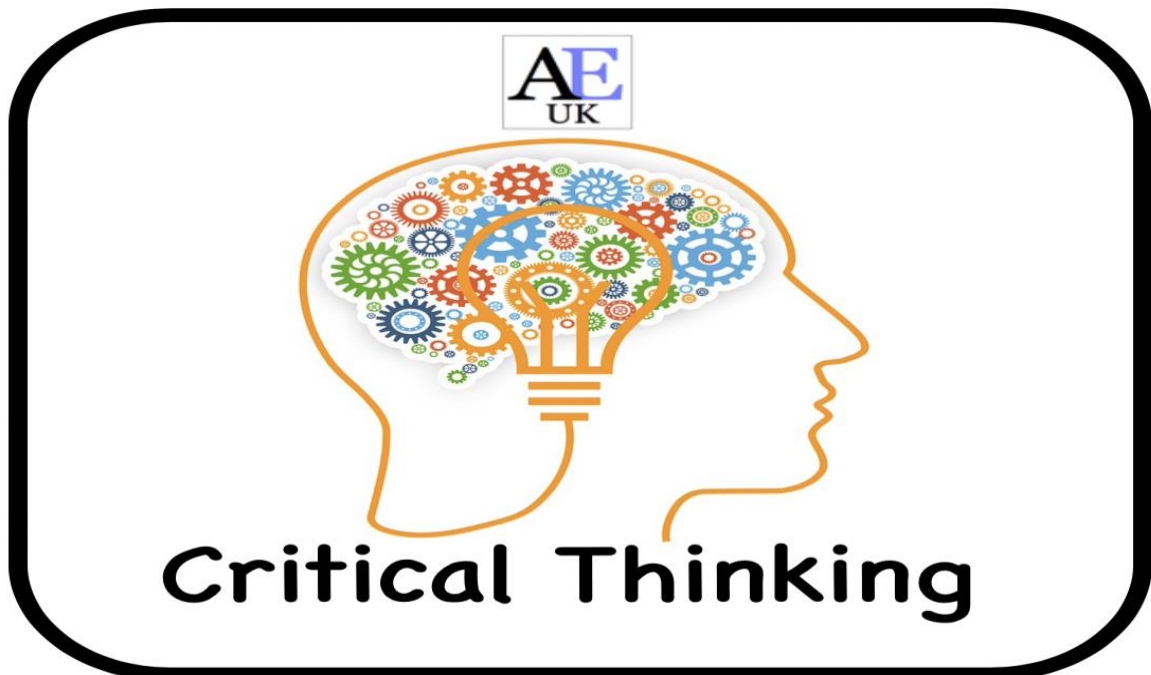


# AE Academic English UK

## Critical Thinking



## Reading Text Analysis 4

Population Growth

EXAMPLE

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## Critical Thinking: Reading Text Analysis 4

### EXAMPLE

#### Lesson Plan

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

#### 1. Preparation

- Reading text 'Population Growth' 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 'Population Growth'.
- 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 five 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.

## Population Growth EXAMPLE

H. Kennedy & C. Wilson (2024)

Although there is some debate over when global population hit 8 billion, what we can be sure of is that the increase in the number of humans on Earth has occurred at a phenomenal rate, particularly during the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Until 1800, the world's population remained below 1 billion, and growth was considerably slow, as can be seen in the 800 years between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the population expanded from 0.25 to 0.5 billion. In comparison, owing to migration and innovation, between the years 1925 and 2011, the figure drastically rose from 2 billion to 7 billion in less than one hundred years (Roser & Ritchie, 2023). Between 2011 and 2023, we added yet another billion, which would suggest that we will see 9 billion by the next decade.

growth of global population has actually begun to slow down. Roser & Ritchie (2023) claim that population huge exponential growth rate has been declining since. In other words, it will actually take longer and longer to we main reasons for this is declining birth rates. According to Morse (2023), in several populous countries, the below the 2.1 standard which would enable a population to replace itself year on year. Another are living longer, with Current data not only indicates that the global median age is 32, and is expected to rise to 39 in less than forty years, but also to a quarter by 2060, the number of people aged 65 or over could climb from a fifth to nearly a third in Therefore, comprised of more adults and fewer children.

Though a declining population may have positive impacts, lead to a fragile economy, but the gap between rich and poor countries may also widen further. Harding may give people means fewer ideas, leading to a decrease in progress, investment, production, demand and consumption, living . Moreover, as the United Nations (2023) report, although fertility rates are declining in several nations, the expectancy is also below the global average. This could potentially result in a distinct imbalance between sparsely populations of up to 60 countries are projected to drop by 2050, but global population is predicted to reach will on our world.

### References

Harding, R. (2020). [online]. Available at: <https://www.ft.com/content/c017334e-36bb-> [Accessed 14 Feb 2024].

*Estimates Vary but Trends Are Clear: Population Growth Is Slowing* [online]. Available at: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/11/> [Accessed 15 Feb 2024].

Roser, M. and Ritchie, H. ( ) *over time?* [online]. Available at: <https://ourworldindata.org/population-growth> [Accessed 15 Feb 2024].

*Global Issues – Population* [online]. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/> [Accessed 15 Feb 2024].

## Possible Critical Evaluation **ANSWERS**

Although there is some debate over when global population hit 8 billion <sup>(1)</sup>, what we can be sure of is that the increase in the number of humans on Earth has grown at a phenomenal rate, particularly during the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Until 1800, the world's population remained below 1 billion <sup>(2)</sup>, and growth was considerably slow, as can be seen in the 800 years between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the population expanded from 0.25 to 0.5 billion <sup>(3)</sup>. In comparison, owing to migration and innovation <sup>(4)</sup>, between the years 1925 and 2011, the figure drastically rose from 2 billion to 7 billion in less than one hundred years (Roser & Ritchie, 2023). Between 2011 and 2023, we added yet another billion, which would suggest that we will see 9 billion by the next decade <sup>(5)</sup>.

1. Why is there debate about when the population reached 8 billion? Who has been debating it?
2. Questionable evidence: What was used to collect this data in those times? How do we know the data was accurate? Did all countries collect population data around this time?
3. Unclear: "as can be seen" - what is the author describing here? There is no source or data link to a graph or statistical table. The author is actually ...

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