

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving for Effective Decision





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Introduction

Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally, using the information to solve problems in our teams and organisations. It is an essential business skill that allows us to think outside the box, spot consequences, and inconsistencies, construct and evaluate arguments, identify relevant ideas, and systematically solve problems.

This Critical Thinking & Problem Solving for the Public Service Leaders training seminar enables delegates to apply the skills of critical thinking and problem-solving in the global knowledge economy so that they can deal with change quickly and effectively. They will return to their organisations able to analyse information from diverse sources to solve problems.

Course Objectives of Critical Thinking & Problem Solving for Public Service Leaders

- Recognising when to use critical thinking in business situations
- Thinking clearly and solving problems rationally
- Analysing information from diverse sources in solving problems
- Developing, evaluating, and selecting new ideas
- Critical self-reflection and self-evaluation for justifying decisions

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving for Public Service Leaders Course Outlines

Day 1

Becoming a Critical Thinker

 Definitions of Critical Thinking - rational, sceptical, unbiased analysis, evaluation of factual evidence

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- The Skills We Need for Critical Thinking
- Key Traits of Critical Thinkers
- Improving Critical Thinking Skills
- Developing the Ability to Reason Logically and Rationally
- How to Engage in Reflective and Independent Thinking
- Assessing our Critical Thinking Abilities
- Complimentary Thinking Skills including Creativity
- Using the Cognitive Reflection Test

Day 2

Taking a Systematic Approach to Problem Solving

- Identifying and Articulating the Challenge issue or problem to be resolved
- The Main Problem Solving Models
- Identifying Possible Solutions using the CREATE Model
- Implementing Solutions using Analysis and Prioritisation Tools
- Overcoming Obstacles to Solving Problems
- Winning Support for Your Preferred Solution
- Problem Solving Techniques for Individuals
- Problems Solving Techniques for Team

Day 3

Understanding Your Personal Preferences

- Assessing Your Preferred Approach to Thinking
- Enhancing Whole-Brain Thinking left and right brain
- Recognising and Adapting to the Preferred Thinking Styles of Colleagues and Team Members
- Exploring Your Creativity
- Identifying the Things that Stimulate Your Creativity
- Eliminating Personal Barriers to Innovation
- Stretching Outside Your Personal Style

Day 4

Skills for Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

- Recording the Creative Process using Mind Maps, Concept Charts, Flow Charts, Triangulation and Meta-thinking
- Building Knowledge with Data and Information Blocks
- Tools and Techniques to Become More Creative
- Critical Reading Skills and Practices
- Speaking and Listening Critically
- Reasoning and Arguing Logically
- Using Words to Influence and Persuade
- Presenting Evidence and Justifying Opinions and Advice

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Day 5

Applying Critical Thinking in Your Team

- Encouraging Group Creative Thinking
- Brainstorming Options for Use in Teams
- How to Challenge Assumptions in Constructive Ways
- Ensuring Teams Avoid Group Think
- Encouraging Critical Thinking among Team Members
- Developing a Personal Action Plan based on Your Strengths and Areas for Development Identified during this Programme

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