**What is Critical Thinking ?**

My understanding of critical thinking is that critical thinking is a framework or latticework of concepts (standards and elements) that are used in evaluating and analysing thought process.

Much of our thinking is done in the peripheral or subconsciously, and critical thinking is to bring this thinking in to the conscious mind and apply to it a methodology.

Critical thinking focuses on the method and thought process of thinking rather than the result.

By approaching thinking this way, we rationalise our thinking and avoid biased/distorted/prejudiced thought.

Critical thinking when continually practised over time will allow the thinker to acquire Intellectual virtues, i.e. thinking behaviour is altered such that intellectual standard and element are increasingly applied even at the subconscious thought.

Critical thinking can be selfish or fairminded. Selfish critical thinking is to use critical thinking for the gain or advancement of an individual or group. Fairminded critical thinking accounts for the advancement of all.

**How is the concept of critical thinking presented here different from conceptions of critical thinking that I have previously encountered ?**

My prior understanding was a set of concepts and ideas that were not grouped or linked in to a framework. Rather they were isolated ideas that were difficult to remember and categorise.

These are ideas such as Mental Models (Charlie Munger), System 1 and System 2 Thinking (Daniel Kahneman), as well as ideas such as Psychological Biases (Robert Cialdini) among others.

Essentially my prior understanding was limited to approaching critical thinking from a single point of view.

Critical thinking presented here contains a framework of standards which are applied to elements. This allows a more balanced and rounded approach to critical thinking without applying scattered concepts.

I have also not previously encountered the ethical aspects of critical thinking such as egocentric and sociocentric thinking.

**Write Briefly about how you can begin to apply this module’s content to your daily life**

I can begin to start thinking more consciously every day in order to progress from a naive/selfish thinker to a fairminded critical thinker.

I can start to change my thinking and behaviour. I feel that my thinking process can be better, and I want to improve my thinking process. Therefore I will try to use the intellectual standards and elements in thinking. I can constantly review the thought process I have used to make decisions with the aim of identifying deficiencies and improving the process. This could happen for example by using hindsight after a decision has been made to try and identify whether our inferences and assumptions were reasonable.

I can start to widen my point of view to become a more fairminded thinker. I need to be more critical of what people say and what the media says, and try and understand how and why people behave the way they do. This will require me to try and see things from their point of view, and allow me to see any egocentric or sociocentric bias.

**Write a little about yourself -**

Mr Ramesh Matharu, I am 42 years old, married and have a son who is six years old.

I am a qualified Chartered Accountant, and I have completed a Bachelors degree in Economics and Finance. I am a director in a business that I own, which imports from Japan and resells spare parts for automobiles.

My motivation to take this course stems from me being a parent and asking myself what is the best knowledge that I can pass on down to my children.

I feel that the best gift to pass down would be knowledge and guidance on how to make good decisions. I feel that life is a series of decisions, and therefore it is important to be able to make good decisions independently.

In order to be a able to do this, I must first improve my own thinking. I have been constantly reading books on psychology, mental models and biographies with a view to further my critical thinking knowledge.

I hope to learn a framework that I can use to enhance my understanding of critical thinking and at the same time pass down this understanding to my children. I also hope to be able to change my behaviour when thinking so as to develop intellectual traits. I understand that critical thinking is a constant learning and application, we need to continuously perform in order to maintain our intellectual traits.