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**CT800: Week 7 Assignments**

**2) 5 Examples for the 3 Kinds of Questions**

One System
1. When was Adam Smith’s “The Wealth of Nations” released?
2. What’s the acceleration of gravity on Earth?
3. Is the moon there even if nobody looked at it?
4. What is the square root of Pi?
5. Is it statistically safer to drive by car or fly with a plane?

No System
1. Is soup better than salad?
2. Would you want me to wear a red or blue shirt?
3. Do I want to go on vacation in Germany or elsewhere?
4. Do you want something to eat?
5. Do you prefer breakfast over dinner?

Multi-System
1. Was Bitcoin invented by a person or a group of people?
2. Was it necessary that America dropped the two nuclear bombs on Japan?
3. Can there be an economic framework for enterprises to both cooperate and compete in simultaneously?
4. Should I spend my time educating myself on every topic that I can get my hands on, despite not having any project to which I can apply my learning?
5. Is it worth it to party and go out if you’re young when you have other ambitions?

**3) Journal Entry focused on asking quality questions in my daily life**

Situation
This year, I made one of the most grave decisions yet: I’ve decided to drop out of University to continue self-educating and building my online business.

Before I made that decision, I asked myself crucial questions that incrementally led me to make the decision that I wanted to elaborate on.

Response
One of the main questions that I asked myself was whether I knew what kind of business model I wanted to pursue and whether there was evidence that it worked. After all, I need to secure my own income at some point.

Another major question that I asked was how long it would take for me to grow my business to a point at which it would be economically equal to an entry-level job after graduating college. If it would take me way too long (time horizon roughly 3 years, I might have continued pursuing both things simultaneously)

Furthermore, the question arose as to what kind of skills I still needed to acquire and better myself in to make the work as qualitative as possible. Directly linked to this was the question of whether I was able to find resources that I could self-study with.

Moreover, I asked how I wanted my schedule to look so that I could focus on the most important tasks that needed to be done on a daily basis and have enough time to continue learning.

Finally, I asked what the worst and the best case scenarios were in either pursuing college full-time, part-time + business, or business full-time.

Analysis
Looking back, I should have planned much longer into the future (10, 15, 20+ years). I should have asked myself whether I actually had an idea of what I wanted to become in the future, apart from “Entrepreneur”. That can be a huge field and I think I partly got lulled into it because I knew that it ultimately had much more leverage than a “9-5”. Luckily, I can now see myself doing what I am doing at the moment for a long time. I am happy to have taken the Critical Thinking Course because it discusses the very logic of reasoning which is directly tied to content. So whatever I’m learning or producing, I’m doing it from a Critical Thinker’s perspective.

Implications
Whenever making a decision that diverts from the norm, I should have solid reasons for that behavior. I should continue asking where the behavior I’m engaging in at the moment will lead me in the future. I should ask meticulous questions on the road to bettering my craft so that the work can speak for itself.

**5) Key Ideas in the video + significant, positive implications for day-to-day life**

* Screw superficial Pop-Psychology
	+ The depth of questions asked will shine a much better light on the complexities involved than any simple cookie-cutter solution ever could
* Use tools of criticality for creative problem-solving
	+ Maybe you can find more alternatives to a problem (compromises, tradeoffs)
		- Use the elements of thought to think through a problem and think through the consequences (short & long-term) of options available
* What are the most pressing decisions you’re avoiding? Why?
* You need to be realistic in your thinking of alternatives. Otherwise: Frustration
	+ Do you accommodate your thinking to reality or vice versa?
* Always question the significance of things. Are some things really worth your time? What’s in it for you / others?
* You need to cultivate the Intellectual Traits to function realistically in reality. These ground yourself
* Realize that you’re finding yourself in the position you’re in because of the decisions you’ve made in the past
	+ By implication, your future will depend on the decisions you make in the present

Positive Implications for day-to-day life:

I’m lucky to have come across the topic of Positive Psychology simultaneously with the tools for Critical Thinking. The field of Positive Psychology deals with the areas of life contributing to the well-being of a human. With Confidence in Reason, I’ll use the tools of Criticality to work toward a reasonable future catered to my well-being without relying on Pop Psychology Trends. This is a really good synergy and I’m happy to share that with the world via the Internet.

**6) Journal Entry on decision-making in daily life**

Situation

I find myself at a crossroads between choosing either a shallow life guided by modern distractions and governed by impulse desires and intuition or a deep and meaningful life guided by principles and governed by rationality.

Response

At the moment, I have three concepts for “Life-design”: Critical Thinking, Positive Psychology, and The Deep Life (Cal Newport).

I should use The Deep Life as an overarching theme, Positive Psychology as the guiding source to what’s reasonable, and the tools of Criticality Thinking to facilitate that.

Analysis

This makes a whole lot of sense. While The Deep Life is all about radical intentionality and alignment with one’s values, Positive Psychology informs me about the “Life Buckets” that I can get intentional with in the first place. The tools for Critical Thinking can help me make conscious (intentional) decisions and protect me from potential pitfalls.

One of the potential pitfalls that I am now aware of is the danger of pursuing quick hedonic goals. This goes hand-in-hand with the intentionality behind my career choices. My dad always reminds me of one of his former colleagues who has chosen the pursuit of money and status over holistic development while sacrificing major elements like friendship, hobbies, or family – only to end up crying in a sportscar. While there’s nothing wrong with the sportscar, there is something wrong with “putting all eggs in one basket.”

Implications

I’ll have much more control over the destination of my life and less uncertainty. I – hopefully, but also likely – won’t fall prey to get-x-quick schemes, but rather embody a more incremental approach towards life.