

Critical Thinking Activity Workbook

Unit II – Common Denominators

This workbook contains 75 engaging real-life scenarios. Each student will receive one scenario. For each scenario, apply the six common denominators of critical thinking: Clarity, Accuracy, Relevance, Logic, Evidence, and Fairness. Use the activity table provided and then write a short conclusion.

Individual Critical Thinking Activity (30 minutes)

Theme: *Applying Common Denominators in Real-Life Decisions*

Instructions for Students

1. You will receive **one scenario** (real-life situation).
2. Read the scenario carefully and **underline the key issue**.
3. Use the **6 Common Denominators of Critical Thinking** to analyze the scenario:
 - **Clarity** – Define the issue clearly in your own words.
 - **Accuracy** – Write down only the facts you *know* are correct.
 - **Relevance** – Identify what information really matters for the decision.
 - **Logic** – Write the possible consequences if you choose each option.
 - **Evidence** – Note what data, research, or examples support your reasoning.
 - **Fairness** – Consider whether your choice is fair to all parties involved.
4. Fill your answers in the **activity table** provided.
5. After completing the table, write a **short conclusion (5–6 lines)** with your final decision and justification.
6. Be prepared to **share your reasoning** with a partner or in a small group.

 **Activity Table (to be printed with each scenario)**

Common Denominator	My Answer / Reasoning
Clarity	What exactly is the problem?
Accuracy	What facts are true here?
Relevance	What information matters most?
Logic	If I do X, what happens? If I do Y, what happens?
Evidence	What proof or examples can I use?
Fairness	Am I being unbiased and fair to all sides?

 **Interactive Twist**

- After filling in the table, turn to your neighbor and **exchange scenarios**.
- Each of you should try to **spot one denominator the other missed**.
- This makes the activity interactive and ensures peer feedback.

Example (Mini-Demo for Students)

Scenario: *You must decide whether to buy an expensive branded laptop or a budget laptop for your studies.*

- **Clarity:** The decision is between performance vs cost.
- **Accuracy:** Branded laptop costs ₹70,000; budget laptop ₹35,000.
- **Relevance:** For studies, I mainly need MS Office and browsing.
- **Logic:** Expensive laptop → lasts longer but affects savings. Budget laptop → cheaper but may slow down after 2–3 years.
- **Evidence:** Online reviews say budget laptops work fine for normal students.
- **Fairness:** My parents are paying; I should not burden them with extra costs if it's not necessary.

✅ **Final Decision:** I will buy the budget laptop since it meets my needs fairly and logically, without overspending.

Timing (30 min)

- 5 min → Read scenario + instructions.
- 15 min → Fill in table.
- 5 min → Write conclusion.
- 5 min → Exchange and peer-check with neighbor.

Scenario 1

Your professor says laptops should not be used in class. Do you agree or disagree?

Instructions: Read carefully. Apply the six common denominators (Clarity, Accuracy, Relevance, Logic, Evidence, Fairness). Fill the table below, then write a 6–7 line conclusion explaining your final decision.

Common Denominator	My Reasoning
Clarity	
Accuracy	
Relevance	
Logic	
Evidence	
Fairness	

Conclusion (6–7 lines):

This list contains all 75 scenarios from the Critical Thinking Workbook.

Education (10)

1. Your professor says laptops should not be used in class. Do you agree or disagree?
2. The college canteen offers to serve only healthy food (no fast food). Should students accept or protest?
3. Your hostel introduces a rule: Wi-Fi will be turned off after 11 pm. Should this be enforced?
4. Should exams be open-book or closed-book?
5. Should attendance be mandatory for all lectures?
6. Should students be allowed to choose any subject freely in college?
7. Should grading be based only on final exams or continuous assessment?
8. Your university is shifting half of classes online permanently. Do you support it?
9. Should students use AI tools like ChatGPT for assignments?
10. Your college is planning weekend classes for extra training. Should students agree?

Career & Work (10)

11. You get two job offers: Job A (High salary, stressful work) vs Job B (Average salary, balanced life). Which will you choose?
12. Your parents want you to prepare for a government job, but you want to join a startup. What will you do?
13. Is it better to work in a startup or a big corporate?
14. Should promotions be based on seniority or performance?
15. Should employees be allowed to work from home permanently?
16. Should companies allow flexible working hours for all employees?
17. Should internships always be paid?
18. You must decide whether to stay in your hometown job or relocate to a metro city. Which do you prefer?
19. Should salaries be kept transparent among employees?

20. Would you prefer job security (govt job) or higher salary (private)?

Technology & Media (10)

21. Instagram hides likes on posts. Should this be supported?

22. A friend forwards you “miracle health cure” on WhatsApp. Will you trust or verify it?

23. Your hostel asks for extra fees for faster Wi-Fi. Is it fair?

24. Should mobile phones be allowed in classrooms?

25. Are online news sources more reliable than newspapers?

26. Should video games be considered a sport?

27. Should children be allowed unlimited YouTube access?

28. Should influencers be punished for false advertising?

29. Should AI replace teachers in classrooms?

30. Should Wikipedia be allowed as a primary source in assignments?

Daily Life (10)

31. You have ₹1,000 left this month. Will you buy a concert ticket or save it for expenses?

32. You are invited to two events at the same time: a birthday party and a career seminar. Which do you attend?

33. You overslept and missed morning class. Should you sneak in or be honest with your teacher?

34. Choosing between cooking at home daily vs eating outside. Which is better?

35. Should young people spend more money on experiences or savings?

36. Should students buy expensive branded phones or budget models?

37. Is it better to rent a house or buy one early in life?

38. Should students focus on fitness or academics if time is limited?

39. Should public transport be preferred over private vehicles?

40. Should people completely avoid fast food?

Social Issues (10)

41. Should voting be made compulsory for all citizens?
42. Should college students participate in protests?
43. Should uniforms be mandatory in colleges?
44. Should social media accounts be linked with Aadhaar/ID?
45. Should celebrities be role models for youth?
46. Should caste-based reservations be continued or changed?
47. Should students be allowed to marry at 18?
48. Should religious festivals be celebrated inside universities?
49. Should the legal drinking age be lowered to 18?
50. Should public holidays be equal for all religions?

Environment (10)

51. Your city plans to cut 100 trees to build a new shopping mall. Should this be supported?
52. Should plastic be completely banned in your city?
53. Should metro construction be prioritized over tree protection?
54. Should electric vehicles replace petrol/diesel vehicles?
55. Should air conditioners be banned in hostels to save energy?
56. Should governments spend more on solar energy projects?
57. Should bottled water be banned in colleges?
58. Should fast fashion brands be boycotted for pollution?
59. Should water usage be strictly regulated in hostels?
60. Should tourism be limited in eco-sensitive areas?

Ethics & Morality (10)

61. You see your best friend copying during an exam. Will you report or ignore it?
62. You find a lost wallet with ₹2,000 and an ID card in it. What will you do?
63. You are given free access to pirated movies. Will you use it?
64. Should lying be allowed to avoid hurting someone's feelings?
65. Should doctors refuse treatment to smokers who won't quit?
66. Should companies sell junk food knowing it harms health?
67. Should AI be used in wars instead of soldiers?
68. Should scientists clone humans if possible?
69. Should privacy be sacrificed for national security?
70. Should animals be used for scientific experiments?

Personal Growth (5)

71. Should you choose friends based on similar interests or very different ones?
72. Should students take a gap year after graduation?
73. Should one focus more on personal happiness or family expectations?
74. Should students spend more time on academics or hobbies?
75. Should risk-taking be encouraged or avoided in life decisions?