



香港資優教育學院  
The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

# Thinking skills

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# Thinking skills

- What is 'thinking'?



# Thinking skills

- Information processing
- Reasoning
- Enquiry
- Creative thinking
- Evaluation



# Types of thinking

- Critical
- Creative



# Critical thinking

‘Critical thinking is reasonable, reflective thinking that is focused on deciding what to do or believe.’

*Robert Ennis*



# Creative thinking

- Help students' minds do new things
- Help them to be creative, inventive and to discover new things
- Develop humour, wonder and imagination



# Tools for effective thinking

- Background knowledge
- Critical concepts and vocabulary
- Criteria for judgement
- Strategies
- Habits of mind
- Thinking skills include information processing, enquiry, reasoning, creativity, evaluating

*Sharon Bailin*  
*Simon Fraser University, USA*



# Developing thinking

- Shared thinking sessions
- Listening and questioning
- Considering and weighing up evidence and exploring alternatives
- Best done through public discussion and collaborative work
- Teacher models thinking



# Six ingredients for the thinking classroom

1. Appropriate climate for thinking
2. Immersion in language
3. Deliberate pacing
4. Active experience
5. Community of thinkers
6. Reflection



# Developing thinking skills

- Classifying, selecting and sorting objects, ideas and concepts
- Development of organising and memorising skills
- Mind maps, aide memoirs, signs, symbols and information grouping
- Expose students to extended work and so allow thinking skill development



# Developing thinking skills

- Decision making
  - Defining the situation
  - Stating the goal
  - Generating ideas
  - Preparing a plan
  - Investigating alternatives
  - Taking action
- Compare and contrast situations and alternatives



# Developing thinking skills

- Raise students' awareness of how they think
- Involve tasks centred around
  - Creative thinking
  - Lateral thinking
- Research
  - Problem finding
  - Problem solving
  - Discussions
  - Debate



# Further resources

[www.londongt.org/etasc](http://www.londongt.org/etasc)

