

AS/A-Level

# Critical Thinking

spring/summer 2008



philip allan  
UPDATES

## OCR Critical Thinking AS and A2 Resource Packs

Jill Swale

The highly popular *OCR Critical Thinking AS* and *A2 Resource Packs* provide teachers with **fully photocopiable** resource materials for teaching the AS and A2 units of the OCR specification. A new AS pack for teaching the 2008 specification, with completely new material and a free CD of PowerPoint presentations, will be published in January 2008.

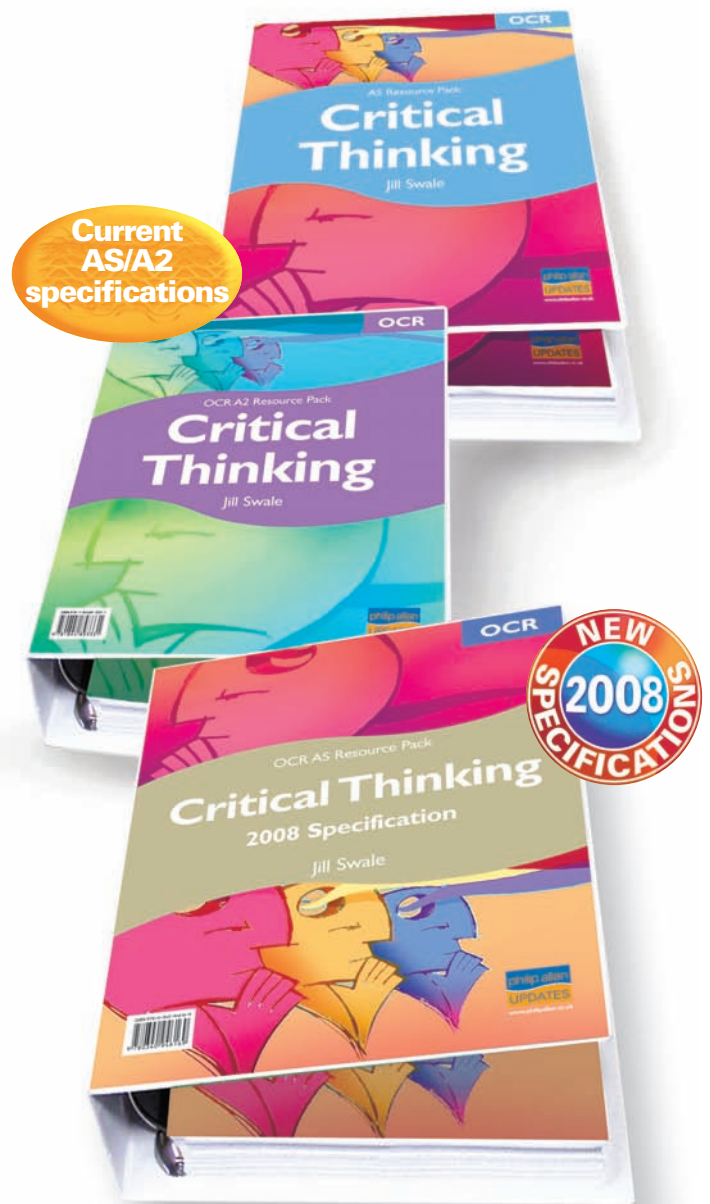
Each pack comprises a number of **topics** (see pages 3–4) that build up students' critical thinking skills and prepare them for the unit examinations. The material for each topic includes:

- **Teacher Notes** — these provide the aims of the lessons and a detailed lesson plan, including advice and guidance to teachers on the presentation of the material of the topic and the structure that the lesson may take
- **Information Sheets** — these contain additional information that teachers and/or students may require for the lesson, and are useful as revision notes
- **Worksheets** — these are photocopiable materials for each student. They are activities to test understanding of the concepts and skills referred to on the information sheets
- **Answer Sheets** to the activities.

### Value for money

The *OCR Critical Thinking Resource Packs* are each supplied in a ring binder, and priced at **£89.99**. **Orders over £200 for any combination of publications that appear in this catalogue qualify for a discount of 10% (see Order form).**

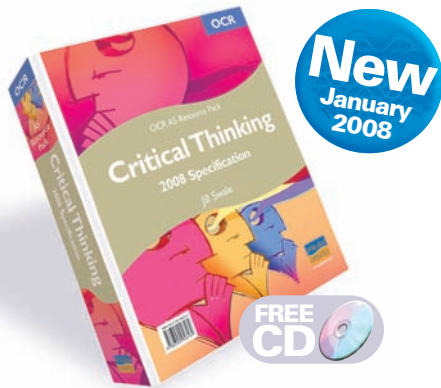
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### Key benefits

- **Save hours of preparation time**
- **Help teachers to structure the course in preparation for unit examinations**
- **Help students to develop awareness of the relevance of critical thinking in daily life**
- **Feature activities for individual, group and class work as well as sample examination-style questions**

## OCR AS Critical Thinking (2008 specification)



This pack will help teachers deliver the new OCR AS Critical Thinking specification from September 2008. It comprises **entirely new material, based on recent events and topical issues.**

The pack has been specially written for the AS course beginning in September 2008 and will help to prepare students for the extra demands of the new specification. **Unit 1** (Section A) will require students to identify the structure of simple arguments, to identify problems in reasoning and assess the use of evidence, as well as to answer questions on credibility (Section B). The pack provides plenty of information, advice and practice to help students meet these requirements, with the assessment objectives of the course made explicit.

**Unit 2** requires students to answer **multiple-choice** questions of a more varied nature than previously, with some questions based on visual materials. The pack will equip teachers with lesson material to fully address these changes. As well as **exercises** gradually building up skills throughout the pack, there are **sample exam papers** modelled on the OCR specimen papers for students to practise, with supporting answer material.

The **accompanying free CD-ROM** gives teachers the opportunity to present the information sheets in sections as **PowerPoints**, so students can consider some of the questions posed in a more dynamic, interactive format. The material can also be modified to **differentiate** tasks according to student ability.

The original AS pack, for teaching the current specification, is still available for purchase from this catalogue (see page 4).

### Contents

<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>Introduction to critical thinking</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Introducing critical thinking</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Identifying reasons and conclusions</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Evidence, examples and intermediate conclusions</b>
<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>Identifying assumptions</b>
<b>Topic 5</b>	<b>Identifying problems in reasoning</b>
<b>Topic 6</b>	<b>Evaluating the use of evidence</b>
<b>Topic 7</b>	<b>Criteria for assessing credibility</b>
<b>Topic 8</b>	<b>Assessing media sources</b>
	<b>Practice examination paper 1 (Sections A and B) with mark schemes</b>
<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Assessing and developing argument</b>
<b>Topic 9</b>	<b>Introducing Unit 2</b>
<b>Topic 10</b>	<b>Some common flaws in reasoning</b>
<b>Topic 11</b>	<b>Identifying appeals to emotion and strengths in arguments</b>
<b>Topic 12</b>	<b>Answering multiple-choice questions</b>
<b>Topic 13</b>	<b>Writing clearly structured arguments</b>
	<b>Practice examination paper 2 (Sections A and B) with mark schemes</b>

### About the author

**Dr Jill Swale** is the Thinking and Teaching Strategies Coordinator at Kendrick School, Reading. In 2005 Kendrick received the *Good Schools Guide* award as the selective state school for girls with the best results nationwide for AS Critical Thinking. Jill was Study Skills Leading Professional for Reading LEA for two years, and frequently runs workshops on teaching methods and critical thinking. She is a regular speaker at Philip Allan Updates teacher workshops.

Jill has over 20 years' experience teaching in different types of schools, and also teaches sociology, English, citizenship and thinking skills.

Photocopiable ring binder (plus free CD)

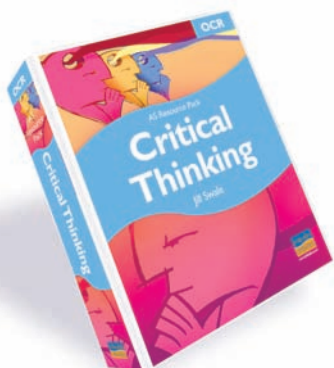
Publication: January 2008

206 pages

**£89.99**

**ISBN 978 0 340 94616 9**

## OCR Critical Thinking AS Resource Pack



“This pack is a godsend...the activities are both imaginative and focused on the skills the students need to develop. I recommend (it) to any teacher of Critical Thinking for two reasons, because it is written by Jill Swale who can always be relied upon and because it deals with the specifications comprehensively.”

*Peta Jarmey, Social Science Teacher*

### Contents

#### Unit 1 Credibility of evidence

- Topic 1 The relevance of critical thinking
  - Topic 2 What is an argument?
  - Topic 3 Assumptions, inferences and implications
  - Topic 4 Criteria for assessing credibility
  - Topic 5 Assessing contexts
  - Topic 6 Assessing media sources
  - Topic 7 Reasoned judgements
- Practice examination paper 1  
 with mark scheme  
 Practice examination paper 2  
 with mark scheme

#### Unit 2 Assessing and developing arguments

- Topic 8 Analysing the structure of arguments
  - Topic 9 Analogies and disanalogies
  - Topic 10 Recognising flaws in arguments
  - Topic 11 Recognising moral principles and dilemmas
  - Topic 12 Strengths in arguments
- Practice examination paper 3  
 (Section B) with mark scheme  
 Practice examination paper 4  
 (Section B) with mark scheme  
 Recommended resources

Published February 2006

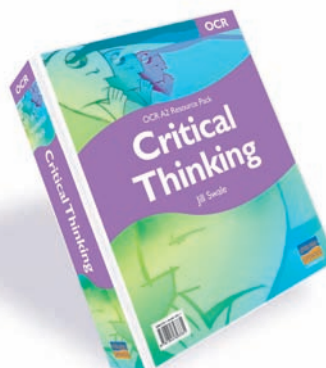
170 pages

£89.99

ISBN 978 1 84489 332 4



## OCR Critical Thinking A2 Resource Pack



### Contents

#### Unit 3 Resolution of dilemmas

- Topic 1 Identifying moral issues and moral decisions
  - Topic 2 Exploring moral and social concepts
  - Topic 3 Applying criteria to a continuum of choice
  - Topic 4 Introducing ethical principles
  - Topic 5 Further ethical principles and positions
  - Topic 6 Interpreting quantitative data and graphs
- Practice examination paper 1  
 with mark scheme  
 Practice examination paper 2  
 with mark scheme

#### Unit 4 Critical reasoning

- Topic 7 Preparing for Unit 4
  - Topic 8 Examining the effects of language
  - Topic 9 Less well-known weaknesses in arguments
  - Topic 10 Consolidating Unit 4 skills
  - Topic 11 Government commission activity
- Practice examination paper 3  
 (Section B) with mark scheme  
 Practice examination paper 4  
 (Section B) with mark scheme  
 Recommended resources

Published September 2006

192 pages

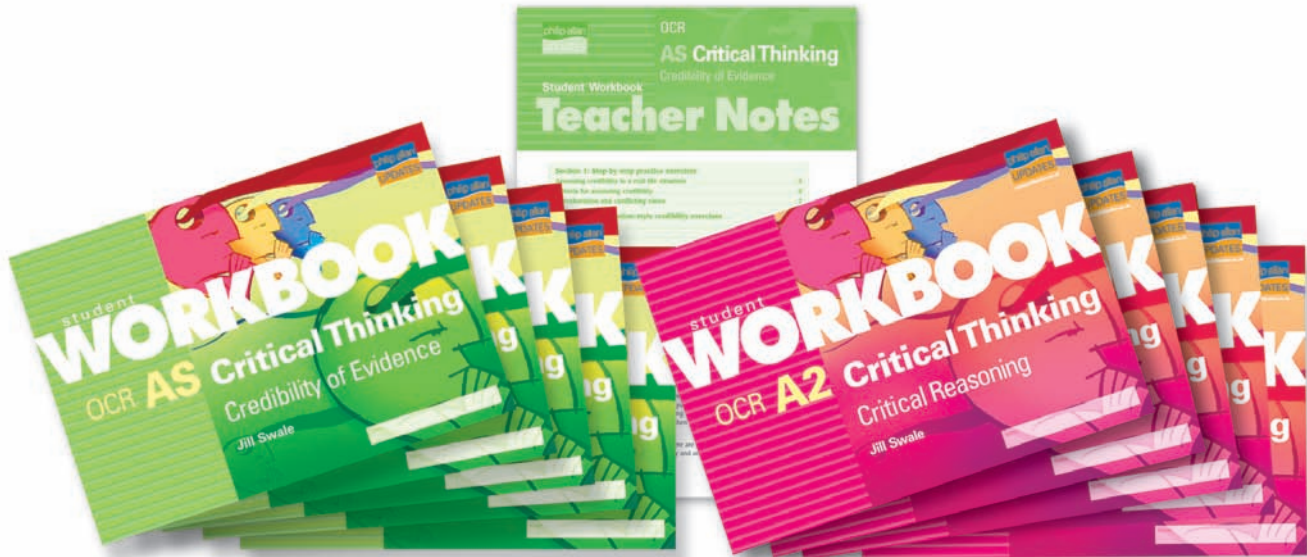
£89.99

ISBN 978 1 84489 333 1



# OCR AS/A2 Critical Thinking Student Workbooks

Jill Swale



AS workbooks

Credibility of Evidence  
Assessing & Developing Argument

A2 workbooks

Resolution of Dilemmas  
Critical Reasoning

*Student Workbooks* are designed to support and complement the *OCR AS and A2 Critical Thinking Resource Packs*. The aim of these workbooks is to help students understand the key concepts, and practise the skills required in each unit exam through a varied selection of exercises.

The **exercises** can be tackled in a variety of ways, as homework or in class, individually or in pairs, or as the basis for classroom discussion. Suggestions for how to use the exercises and answers to the questions are provided in an accompanying set of **Teacher Notes**.

The workbooks are designed to provide complementary materials for the photocopiable resource packs but can also be used as stand-alone resources.

The workbooks are printed in **full colour throughout** and available only in class sets of 10, priced at **£40 per set** plus postage and packing.

**Each set of workbooks includes one FREE copy of the Teacher Notes.**

The workbooks have been written by **Jill Swale**.

## Key benefits

- Provide lively and stimulating exercises
- Help students understand the skills required of them
- Save you invaluable preparation time
- Ideal for exam preparation
- Cheaper than photocopying your own resources!