Task III *Read the following definitions of and comments on critical thinking. Decide which of them is closest to your own understanding of the term and/or create your own definition. Discuss in groups.*

(a) Critical thinking includes three primary components: understanding the author's intended meaning; synthesising all available information, and analysing. (Vermillion, 1197)

(b) Critical thinking means criticism of what other people are doing, or finding errors. (Mayfield, 1991).

(c) Critical thinking is an inevitable complex process in human mind that evaluates and judges information based on certain standard. (Lopez, 1998).

(d) Critical thinking is the use of those cognitive skills and strategies that increase the probability of a desirable outcome. It is used to describe thinking that is purposeful, reasoned, and goal directed – the kind of thinking involved in solving problems, formulating inferences, calculating likelihoods, and making decisions when the thinker is using skills that are thoughtful and effective for the particular context and type of thinking task. (Halpern, 2003)

(e) Critical thinking is a kind of reflective scepticism; where scepticism can be defined as any type of questioning attitude towards knowledge, facts, or opinions/beliefs stated as facts, or doubts regarding claims that are taken for granted elsewhere. (McPeck, 1981)
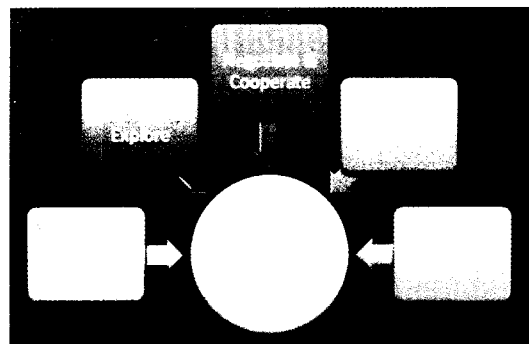
(f) Critical thinking is reasonable reflective thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe or do. (Ennis, 1992)

(g) Critical thinking is a type of social practice that has origins in culturally determined sets of behaviours which analyses the reliability of new ideas before they are allowed in or out. (Onosko and Newmann 1994; Benesch, 1993)

(h) Critical thinking is our response to the need to question what we read, look for assumptions and weaknesses, make connections, respond, and evaluate. (Rogers, 2013)

(i) Critical thinking is a set of steps taken to activate human intellectual thinking to ponder before believing in new arguments. (Ennis, 1996)

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