



# Critical Thinking 2010

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Student Unit Guides

Student Workbooks

Revision Conferences

Photocopiable teaching packs



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# OCR AS/A-Level Critical Thinking Exam Revision Notes

Jill Swale

- Ready-made notes to kick start revision
- Examiner's tips on getting higher marks
- Complete study support for the whole A-level course

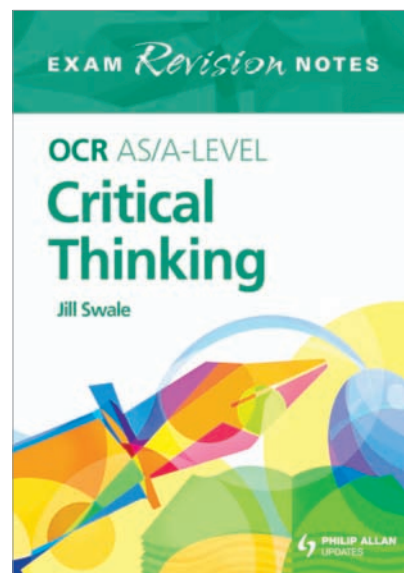
**Exam Revision Notes provide students with the perfect foundation for successful revision. They enable students to:**

- build a thorough understanding of the critical tools required to analyse and evaluate argument
- prepare a successful revision plan
- identify what they are being asked to answer in their exam
- improve their exam technique and ultimately their grade

Written by **Jill Swale**, *OCR AS/A-Level Critical Thinking Exam Revision Notes* systematically covers each unit in the **new AS and A2 specifications**, providing explanations of all key vocabulary and concepts, together with examples set in appropriate contexts to aid understanding.

In addition, **further questions** and **worked examples** will help to stretch and challenge students. The Notes will help them to understand the criteria examiners use to judge their answers and offers invaluable tips on how to earn the highest marks.

A **revision checklist** at the end of each unit serves as a quick reference before the exam to help students identify areas which need further revision and to make sure that terminology and concepts are understood and correctly applied.



## Contents

### Introduction

#### Unit 1 Introduction to critical thinking

**A** The language of reasoning

**B** Credibility

**C** Revision checklist for Unit 1

#### Unit 2 Assessing and developing argument

**A** Analysis of argument

**B** Evaluating arguments

**C** Developing your own arguments

**D** Revision checklist for Unit 2

#### Unit 3 Ethical reasoning and decision making

**A** Answering the short questions

**B** Answering longer questions

**C** Revision checklist for Unit 3

#### Unit 4 Critical reasoning

**A** Analysis

**B** Evaluation

**C** Writing your own argument

**D** Revision checklist for Unit 4

March 2009

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## OCR AS/A2 Student Unit Guides

**Student Unit Guides are perfect for revision: written by examiners, they explain the unit requirements, summarise the relevant module content and provide specimen questions and answers.**

There are three sections to each guide:

- **Introduction** — includes advice on how to use the guide, an explanation of the skills being tested by the Assessment Objectives, an outline of the unit or module and, depending on the unit, suggestions for how to revise effectively and write a good exam essay.
- **Content Guidance** — an outline of the areas and key concepts students will need to focus on. It is designed to help them structure their revision or research and make them aware of the content knowledge they should have for the exam or study.
- **Questions and Answers** — sample questions and answers for each unit exam, each with an A- and C-grade answer. Examples of students' work to demonstrate good practice are featured, together with examiner's comments, explaining how the marks are achieved.

### Will help students to improve their grades by:

- **focusing their revision**
- **building their confidence**
- **strengthening their exam technique and essay writing**

**OCR AS Unit F501: Introduction to Critical Thinking**

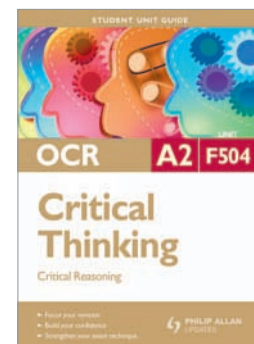
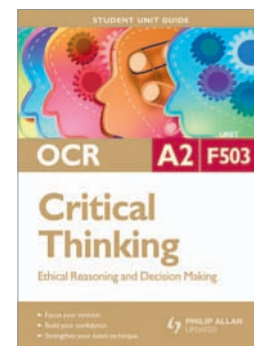
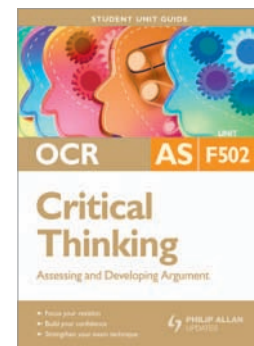
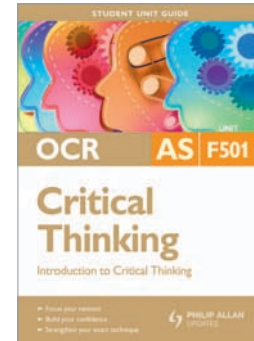
**OCR AS Unit F502: Assessing and Developing Argument**

Roy van den Brink-Budgen

**OCR A2 Unit F503: Ethical Reasoning and Decision Making**

**OCR A2 Unit F504: Critical Reasoning**

David Yates



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## OCR AS/A2 **Critical Thinking Student Workbooks**

Jill Swale

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

*Student Workbooks* will help students understand the key concepts of the new AS and A2 specifications, and practise the skills required in each unit exam through a varied selection of exercises.

There are workbooks covering the content of the new AS and A2 units.

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

The workbooks are printed in **full colour** and available in **class sets of 10 (the new A2 workbooks are also available in sets of 5)**, priced at **£40 per set for 10** and **£22.50 for 5**.

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

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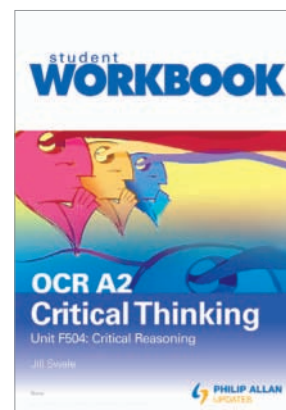
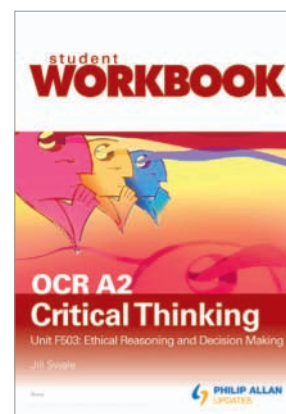
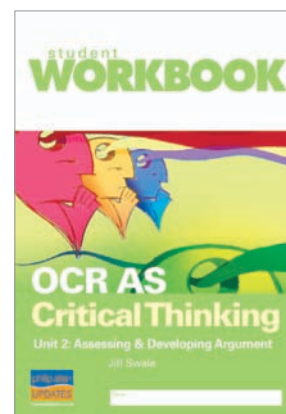
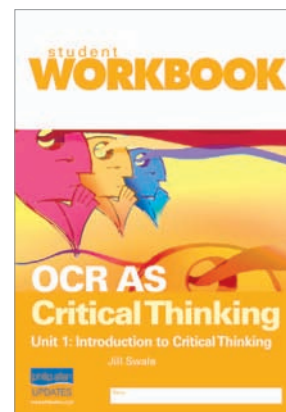
Unit 1: Introduction to Critical Thinking

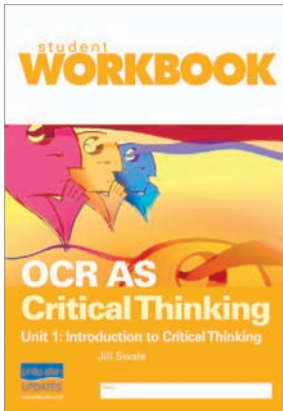
Unit 2: Assessing & Developing Argument

### A2 workbooks

Unit 3: Ethical Reasoning and Decision Making

Unit 4: Critical Reasoning





## Unit 1: Introduction to Critical Thinking

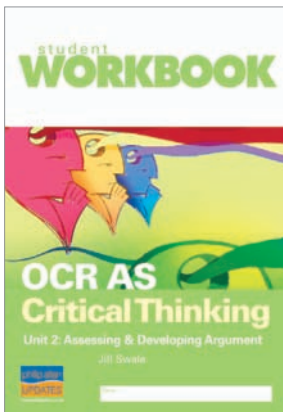
- Section 1: The Language of reasoning
- Section 2: Credibility
- Section 3: Specimen examination paper

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### Teacher Notes

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## Unit 2: Assessing & Developing Argument

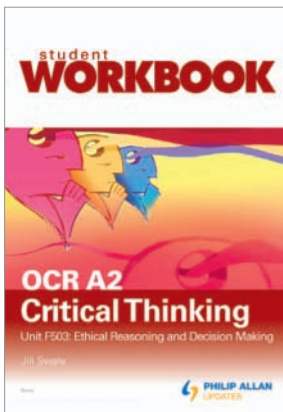
- Section 1: Analysis of argument
- Section 2: Evaluating arguments
- Section 3: Multiple-choice questions
- Section 4: Developing reasoned arguments
- Section 5: Specimen examination paper

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### Teacher Notes

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## Unit F503: Ethical Reasoning and Decision Making

- Section 1: Information and exercises, including analysing problems of definition, assessing documents, and identifying ethical dilemmas
- Section 2: Practice examination paper

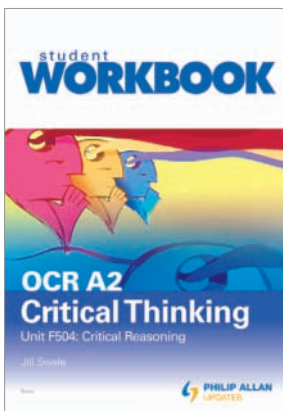
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## Unit F504: Critical Reasoning

- Section 1: Building on what you know
- Section 2: Analysis of argument
- Section 3: Evaluation
- Section 4: Writing your own extended argument
- Section 5: Practice examination paper

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## OCR Critical Thinking AS and A2 Resource Packs

Jill Swale

- 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

The highly popular *OCR Critical Thinking AS and A2 Resource Packs* provide teachers with fully photocopiable resource materials for teaching the new OCR specification. A new A2 pack, for teaching the new specification from September 2009, with completely new material and a free CD of PowerPoint presentations, was published in Spring 2009.

Each pack comprises a number of **topics** (see page 7) 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

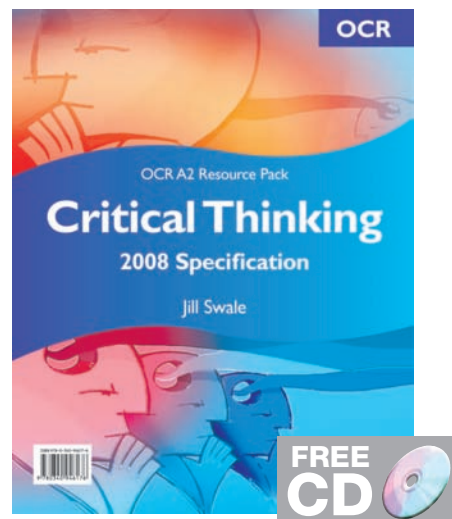
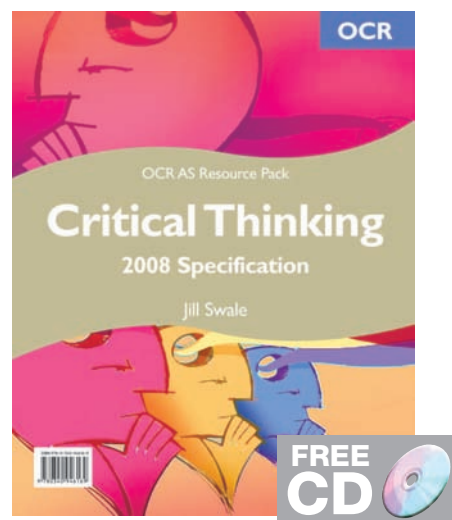
The OCR Critical Thinking Resource Packs are each supplied in a ring binder, and priced at £99.99. Orders over £200 for any combination of publications that appear in this catalogue qualify for a discount of 10% (see Order form).

All the material is copyright, but a purchasing institution is entitled to make photocopies for use exclusively within that institution time and time again without further charge.

### 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.



## OCR AS Critical Thinking 2008 Specification

### Contents

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

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## OCR A2 Critical Thinking 2008 Specification

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<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>Ethical reasoning and decision making</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	Introducing ethical reasoning and decision making
<b>Topic 2</b>	Problems of definition
<b>Topic 3</b>	Using criteria to make choices
<b>Topic 4</b>	Identifying dilemmas and introducing ethical principles
<b>Topic 5</b>	More ethical principles Practice examination paper Documents (Resource Booklet) Questions Mark scheme
<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>Critical reasoning</b>
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<b>Topic 7</b>	Identifying rhetorical devices
<b>Topic 8</b>	Evaluation: deductive reasoning
<b>Topic 9</b>	Evaluating strands of argument
<b>Topic 10</b>	Writing your own extended argument Practice examination paper Documents (Resource Booklet) Questions Mark scheme

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