

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

1

Knowledge

Identification and recall of information

define
fill in the blank
list
identify

label
locate
match
memorize

name
recall
spell

state
tell
underline

Who _____?
What _____?
Where _____?
When _____?

How _____?
Describe _____?
What is _____?

2

Comprehension

Organization and selection of facts and ideas

convert
describe
explain

interpret
paraphrase
put in order

restate
retell in your own words
rewrite

summarize
trace
translate

Re-tell _____ in your own words.
What is the main idea of _____?

What differences exist between _____?
Can you write a brief outline?

3

Application

Use of facts, rules, and principles

apply
compute
conclude
construct

demonstrate
determine
draw
find out

give an example
illustrate
make
operate

show
solve
state a rule or principle
use

How is _____ an example of _____?
How is _____ related to _____?
Why is _____ significant?

Do you know of another instance where _____?
Could this have happened in _____?

4

Analysis

Separating a whole into component parts

analyze
categorize
classify
compare

contrast
debate
deduct
determine the factors

diagram
differentiate
dissect
distinguish

examine
infer
specify

What are the parts or features of _____?
Classify _____ according to _____.
Outline/diagram/web/map _____.

How does _____ compare/contrast with _____?
What evidence can you present for _____?

5

Synthesis

Combining ideas to form a new whole

change
combine
compose
construct
create
design

find an unusual way
formulate
generate
invent
originate
plan

predict
pretend
produce
rearrange
reconstruct
reorganize

revise
suggest
suppose
visualize
write

What would you predict/infer from _____?
What ideas can you add to _____?
How would you create/design a new _____?

What solutions would you suggest for _____?
What might happen if you combined _____ with _____?

6

Evaluation

Developing opinions, judgements, or decisions

appraise
choose
compare
conclude

decide
defend
evaluate
give your opinion

judge
justify
prioritize
rank

rate
select
support
value

Do you agree that _____? Explain.
What do you think about _____?
What is most important?

Prioritize _____ according to _____?
How would you decide about _____?
What criteria would you use to assess _____?