**STAGE 2 INTERVIEW**

ID\_SS02\_M\_Libya

ID\_SS06\_M\_Greece

SS06 – Greece

SS02 – Libya

**How many Qs in the XM are critical thinking skills? – ATTITUDES**

I so, how was the exam?

SS06 very interesting experience. It’s not necessarily good or great marks but I definitely enjoyed the whole experience. I learnt a lot both for my subjects and myself. It was the best exam period for me in terms of I was less anxious and less stress, yes, I’m happy that I managed to deal with it nicely. Like in terms of grades I think I did very well in Maths that I was studying through the whole semester, but the three others it’s very in the limit I mightn’t like in parts two or only one I’m not sure, but I think I benefitted a lot from the whole experience

I so you interestingly mentioned the word ‘interesting’ and also you learn. So, what is interesting?

SS06 learning (laughs)

I the preparation you mean?

SS06 no, not the preparation

I the whole process?

SS06 the way I see it sometimes, I’m preparing to go take a test like get a good mark

I umm

SS06 the way I see it oh! I’m reading something and learning about the subjects, about physics and about how things works and at the same time I’m going to have the opportunities to test myself with this upcoming exam. So, is not that I’m trying to get a mark when I’m studying I’m trying first of all to learn and enjoy the process that’s what my goal going to be eventually

I right. So, what is something new that you’ve learnt?

SS06 many things, like especially even that during the first semester many things like the curriculum or the syllabus I hadn’t studied at all. So, for the first time I’ve learnt many new interesting things, like waves, sounds, optics. Like how the sounds of musical instrument works, how volume expansion works or everything. Like if I try to think about I’ll find so many things…

I so, based on the contents?

SS06 yes, plus of course for myself. I learnt things that I practised in managing my stress, managing my point of view, and of course like it helped me a lot every time I was going to get stress because I knew I hadn’t studied enough for a great mark I managed to bring myself back in my perspective but I’m starting to learn not to get grades but to pass to learn and everything else will come after this. So, that’s my main point of view

I okay. So, how was the exam?

SS02 well, it was a bit different to previous years for me I think. Although, I studied some pass exam papers as well I found it a bit different in some modules. EP was very difficult for me, yes it was completely different for me

I so, how would you describe the experience?

SS02 I was under pressure actually and I couldn’t do everything in the limited time frame. I couldn’t do everything and everything done. But, I managed to do some past exam papers in every modules, not all of them, but some of them, four or five. I should have done more than that. Because, I had some problems with some modules I had to spend more time on them.

I so, it’s time management?

SS02 ya, time management

I so, how about something that you’ve learnt? Is there anything that you’ve learnt preparing for this exam?

SS02 of course. Like I would change my plan after coming back from the Easter. I would spend more time on EP, EE. Ya, I will do more work on them

I so, you think you need more practice on EP, ya?

SS02 ya, EP

I and you mentioned about self-management?

SS06 ya, self-management

I that includes time management…

SS06 of course, yes. That was a big pressure for me too. I got pressure from time, so, that was what forced me to keep my perspectives

I more focus?

SS06 yes

I so, when you looked at the exam questions, could be any modules how many of the questions need critical thinking skills? You looked at the questions and you think it’s beyond me, you know questions like that

SS02 some questions required time, it looked difficult when you first look at it but when you think about it, it’s not difficult but it needs time, as I said it was different. You have to understand the content, if you don’t understand you can’t just memorise the past year exams papers and write down everything. So you have to understand the theories and you can't just memorise the formulas and put in the numbers

I so knowledge is important?

SS02 yes

I how about the extra thinking skills to analyse the questions?

SS02 some of the questions as you said need critical thinking

I so which modules needed more?

SS02 probably EP (laughs), EP and Mechanics in general. Mechanics was easy but you have to know how to draw and how to analyse things and forces

I so how about you? How many questions do you think need critical thinking? Is there any specific modules has more than the other?

SS06 based on the definition as criterial thinking which you’ve told me may be EE because it’s not given directly, it’s actually giving some data but implicitly, so you have to compose a question and decide what it’s asked which way the best way to follow in order to reach the required result. But the others are pretty much, there’s amount a degree of critical thinking required in all the modules I think as given they’re Maths and Physical Science, these definitely need knowledge…you can’t just use the formulas, numbers and find the results in these exams. You need to know what’s happening…you need knowledge, a better understanding of concepts, it’s not just memorise the formula and write it down

I umm

SS06 the thing is that although many questions require critical thinking especially in EE, the thing is that the way it’s tested as assessed it requires too much practice and mechanical thinking. During the exam you must not think, must see and decide immediately, otherwise you have to leave some questions. You must have practice so much, that during the exam may be during the practice you need the critical thinking but while the exam you just have to write like a robot especially Maths because I know that’s the only one I wrote all the questions and I think I did well, because I studied well and practice through the semester. I think that is what I did Maths and I barely make it in time, I didn’t stop writing…but I didn’t stop to think, I was just writing mechanically as possible. The other ones I have to think I have to my critical thinking, but that’s why I didn’t finish many questions

I right, so when you start to think it takes time?

SS06 yes, during exam you must not think, in this exam you must not think. But, you must think a lot before the exam and during preparation

I okay

SS02 but, as I said it was it was different. They were not lot of critical thinking questions, but this year is different, I think. I don’t know

I right. So, do you think if you’ve have acquired some of the essential critical thinking questions would have helped you answer the questions better?

SS06 if I had critical skills? I think what I needed in this case personally was more knowledge on the topics that I haven’t studied too much. Yes, more critical thinking skills always get better in anything, but in this case, like I think I have some critical thinking skills but you need to have some materials to critically think about which I was lacking that is the knowledge part and ya, you need to know the theory in order to apply critical thinking on it

I if you were to put the ratio on content and critical skills how would it be?

SS06 I would say more content, more about knowledge. If you have just knowledge and not critical thinking skills you can pass, and if you have just critical thinking then you cannot pass, that’s how I see it

I so, content is the really important part?

SS06 yes

I so, how about you? What is your opinion on that? Do you think having the critical skills would have helped you to answer the questions better?

SS02 yeah, critical skills would helped of course, but you need know the specific skills like for EP or MS you must have a specific skills for these modules, you can’t just say critical skills, I have critical skills, what do you mean by critical skills in term of academic life or social life. So, it’s a bit different, but of course it would have helped if you’ve a bit of critical thinking skills you would have answered quicker, because when you’re reading the question you’re thinking whether you’ll skip that question it will take time, and go to another question or you should just think about it. Yeah, but if you have the skill you would have decided quickly, you would have made decision whether you skip it or move to another one to get marks. You have to get marks (laughs)

SS06 yes, that’s the most important part

I so, it’s about quick thinking and making decision?

SS02 yeah, these skills would have helped you to make decision. It’s about decision making during exam. You can’t answer all the questions, unless you’re a tutor or something (laughs)

I so, you need the decision making skill which is a critical skill to prioritise which question you want to attempt first?

SS02 yeah

I and that would have save lot of time isn’t it? Yeah?

SS06 yes, that’s a great point that I haven’t had it in mind because usually in all my exam until now I have been answering all the questions, no matter I had some mistakes but this one, I had some questions I couldn’t answer at all, so I need this critical thinking. I didn’t manage very well because I haven’t done it before. But, it’s very important as Malik said, yes I had to decide very fast if I had to skip it or…

I so, being very selective

SS02 yeah, I mean just get marks for the questions that you’re sure about and come back to those questions when you’ve the time when you’ve finished all the questions. Come back, when you’re doing you revision. Come back to those questions and think about it. During exams I would skip these questions that require thinking

I so you do the easy one first?

SS02 yeah (laughs), of course

I and the difficult one comes later

SS02 yeah (laughs)

I is there any questions in the exam which required specific critical skills which have had not been taught or introduced in the class, do you think? When you look at it you think I have not done this before beyond me, you know? Did you come across questions like that?

SS02 in EP, Part B, question eleven and twelve (laughs). Most students didn’t answer that. We were not trained on that and I have attended all the lectures, but not all of them but the revision ones, she didn’t mention those question. It was the first time I came across a question like that. What the question mean, how do I approach it? (laughs) I wasn’t sure, so

SS06 I think I didn’t know some of the words

I it was difficult because you know the content or the way the question was structured which you don’t understand?

SS02 I mean I haven’t come across this kind of question, how to apply the formula that I have. This is the first time I see the question seeing that format

I so, how about you?

SS06 yeah, I have found come some questions that I hadn’t practised on, but I’m pretty sure if I had attended the lectures or practised past exam, worksheets and whole these stuff systematically I’m 90% sure I would have known them. In this case many of them I hadn’t seen them before mainly because I hadn’t study so much

I so, is there any specific modules have questions like this?

SS06 of course EP. EP and EE

I So, is it because you consciously aware that based on this question or based on your recollection this question was not introduced or practised in the class or is it because you personally have not practise enough?

SS06 I think personally, mainly the second. It might be the first, but I’m pretty sure like for example for Maths I did almost everything. Many things were not introduced in the class but they were introduced in the worksheets. If you were doing the sheets systematically you did every single questions and follow the whole schedules you would come across all the types of questions possible to seeing in the exams. I did that in Maths and I knew what exactly it is. In Maths it was very consistent. The exam was very consistent based on what we were told in lectures and worksheets. The other ones I can’t judge well because I hadn’t study so much. I can say what my friends had told me regarding the worksheets. MS worksheets for example, from what my friends told me, their works before the revision because I hadn’t done all of them they weren’t consistent with the exam. Mostly, yes you have solve many past exams to understand…

I and this is Mechanical Science?

SS06 yes

I right. You know these worksheets are available on the blackboard, so do you think the questions tested in the worksheets reflected in the exam or the worksheets were more difficult than the exam or they were much easier than exam or they complement each other very well?

SS06 I think Maths complement each other perfectly. Yeah, there were some easy ones form easy they get you to the difficult ones. It definitely has everything that you can come across in the first section. The second, they might not give you the exact format of the section B, but it gives you the thinking. The way of thinking even if you need to think during the exam you’ll find if you’ve done the worksheets. I think it perfectly complementing each other, the worksheets, the PGTAs the supports, the lectures all together

I how about you Malik, was there any specific skills which hasn’t been taught or introduced in the class you think?

SS02 as I’ have mentioned the questions in EP and the rest of the modules I think they were okay. I had problems with EP and I haven’t done well in EE as well because did not have enough time. But, I think if I have done more work on EE I would have done better than this. But EP I have done lots of work I don’t know some questions I really don’t know how to approach it. We were not trained on these questions and how to do I mean

I that’s EP and EE?

SS02 yeah

I so, personally you feel you did not have enough practise in the class? Or is it something to do with yourself?

SS02 both. For EP I don’t know, I have done some work but I don’t know how to solve some questions during the exams. How to do it? I just wrote the formula down I don’t know how to do

I right. So, you do feel there were some questions which you were not familiar but have been tested?

SS02 yeah

I how about…

SS06 yes. For me I had too, but I think mostly if not completely maybe because of my lack of study. It’s not because the lectures were lacking or there were not introduced I think because of what I’ve explained

I right. Lack of preparation?

SS06 yes

I there are usually two types of questions in any modules, they are simple questions and there questions that you think these going to kill me

SS02 yeah (laughs)

I so, when you look at the questions when you think is simple, what makes the question simple for you?

SS06 well, I would say there are third types of questions too, like you know what to do and one point you got stuck that you don't know you got go this or the other way. There are questions intermediate, that you know little of it but you’re not sure about it

I if it is simple…

SS06 if it simple what is simple? The fact I know I have practised on it yeah practice makes it simple. They are not simple on their own practice makes everything simple

I so, if it’s difficult or not sure?

SS06 because I have not practised enough

I how about the way they word the questions?

SS06 the way how the questions are expressed?

I yeah

SS06 I think that EE was tricky in this way but still I think if you have practised a lot and have some basic critical thinking I can do it. It’s like the thing that I have mentioned before the composing in your mind the question. Analysing putting like categories like what needed and what’s given and practice again is most important

I so, the practice will determine if it’s easy or not?

SS06 yes. Practice and some basic critical thinking skills. You must understand that this is the question and have to think deeply what is given

I right. So, how about you, what is simple for you?

SS02 the questions are familiar you practise tem and you know how to solve them. The only difference is the number but sometimes they trick you by changing the format of the questions changing some words. They are actually the same things but they try to play with words. It is difficult especially if you see how much marks is awarded. Sometimes they give it like seven marks but it’s not really difficult it’s just easy. They just want to check you, you know what is going on they just want to test you

I so, the question the way they are worded can be difficult, what else can make them difficult?

SS02 to be very long (laughs)

I the text is too long?

SS02 yeah. There was a question in Maths exam was integration by parts you have to do integration of parts three times when I did the third times I was thinking am I doing the right way. Is that the last time I do it or I have to do it again. I was thinking did I approach it in the right way, but…

I so, the way they are worded the text is too long, what else can make a question difficult?

SS02 they haven’t introduce it before the format

I the new format of testing is not introduce before?

SS02 yeah

I how about the content and theory?

SS06 you have to know the theory in case it is awarded differently. You need to know everything about what it means to make the connections

I okay, when you look at questions. There are some modules when you haven’t fully acquired the knowledge on that subject that’s going to affect the other modules as well. Did you come across anything like that?

SS02 what do you mean?

I you know you have Maths, you have EP, EE, MS…

SS06 yes, there are connected

I yeah, within these four modules there might be one dominating module. If you’re good at it, it’s gonna affect the other three. Did you come across anything like that?

SS06 I would say Maths, but like, because you have to know ‘vectors’ to understand the force like how the forces like in MS. But, it’s taught in MS too, and also another thing is EP the waves the waves that taught in EP you’re using it in the EE in the alternate currents. If don’t have ideas about waves in EP I had so hard time in EE…but after I read more about the waves in EP I felt much better with the waves and current in the EE. Yeah, they are connected in some in which, but I don’t think one is needed for all or others. I would say Maths…I used in anywhere

I right. So, coming back to critical skills which you apply to answer to answer some of the questions. Is it like cross over or is it like for certain modules you apply in a certain way and you won’t apply it in another module? Or is it like you can interchangeably use them?

SS06 ‘vectors’ I would say, if that’s what you mean? I use the knowledge of ‘vectors’ that I use in Maths

SS02 in a sense of energy subject…

SS06 ‘energy’, yeah, exactly! ‘energy’, is everywhere, EP, MS, Electricity and Electronics. Yeah, exactly. Understanding ‘energy’ in modules helps me to understand the energy in other modules

I so, how about you…

SS02 I think the most important module is Maths

I so, you think it’s Maths?

SS02 yeah, of course. Because if you look at students of whose taking English Pathway the university will take away some of the physical modules like EP, EE or Mechanics depending on which subjects you’re going to progress next year.

I umm

SS02 but, they won’t take away Maths, because Maths is important you have to memorise. So, I would say, yes Maths. You need Maths in every single module I think, the process you have done, the parameters, any formulas

I so, Maths is important?

SS02 yes

I so, how about

SS08 Maths is important, the basics for this course

I so, when you look at the questions there are some key words which you look for because you don’t want to waste time reading everything. So, reading the key words will help you to reduce your time reading a particular question. So, when you look at the key words do you apply the technique of reading for key words or just read it over all?

SS02 I just read over all, I don’t…

I Is there any words when you look at it you think this is asking me to be critical, not a straight forward question?

SS02 I don’t think I have that skill, I’m not sure. I don’t think so

I any words that you think that means a critical word, that word is a critical word

SS02 sometime the questions based on specific words, if you take away those words the questions will be a bit different

I what are the words you think?

SS02 I think that depends on the module of the questions I think. There isn’t any specific words in English (laughs)

I If I give you examples like evaluate and explain, which one is more critical?

SS02 explain is more critical

I you think explain is critical?

SS02 yeah, ‘explain’ you have to ‘evaluate’ and ‘explain’. Evaluate is just play with the formula give number and evaluate

SS06 I prefer ‘evaluate’

SS02 (laughs)

I so, you’re not familiar with those words which actually require you to be critical?

SS02 if you’re talking about ‘evaluate and explain’, it’s easy. But, there are some difficult words in the context like a straight forward, ‘evaluate’, ‘explain’ and ‘show’ that is equal to something. These are easy, I mean they are straightforward, you can’t answer the questions without them you know

I umm

SS02 but there are some other words in the context of they are not like ‘in the given information’, ‘the given data’. There are some key words there you have to know them to solve the questions

I so, these key words are content words or actions words like the verbs asking you to do something?

SS02 ( \_ ) ah ( \_ )

I you know like ‘explain’ is a verb right? Is an action word asking you to explain something?

SS02 yeah?

I where else, words like, ‘pendulum’, for an example is a content word, yeah? It’s a noun

SS02 yeah. It’s like nouns

I so, content words are more important?

SS02 yeah

I right. So, basically what you’re saying is the knowledge of something is more important?

SS02 yeah, because it’s easy to find the verbs

I so, verbs are easy for you?

SS02 yeah, you can find. Like you’re asking me now, ‘do you think’, I will focus on ‘think’, what do I think? You know (laughs). But, the nouns are a bit difficult when you put some information and they are a bit tricky

I right. So how about …when you look at words, because exam is about tasks doing something

SS06 yeah

I therefore, the action word do you think is important?

SS06 yes, because it lets you know if you (write? 37:25:6) down words like theory what happens or if you just have to make calculations. If it says ‘explain’ you have to explain like this happens because of that. If it says ‘show’ that or ‘find’ ‘X’ you just try to do the calculations

I so, which word do you think is a critical word?

SS06 critical? Umm, ‘explain’ of course

I ‘explain’ is critical?

SS06 yes, because you have to think of what going on in depth in theory

I umm

SS06 so, ‘find’ is also critical. If it says ‘show’ this is equal to this is more critical. You just need to make

I ‘show’ or ‘solve’

SS06 ‘solve’ is even less. I don’t know. Actually everything can be critical

I everything?

SS06 it depends on the context of the question. If the question has only one calculation to be done and it says ‘find X’ that’s not critical. If the questions has many calculations to be done in the same part and not A, B, C, D in sequel. Fits everything in one question and says ‘find’ whatever it says it’s critical because you have to decide which will, which calculation you will do first, which will go second, how they will be combined and all that stuffs. But, I yes (sighs)

I if let’s say there is a question asking you ‘find X’ of something okay?

SS06 yes

I and then, there is another question, ‘justify your choice’?

SS06 ‘justify your choice’ is critical

I ‘justify your choice’ is critical?

SS06 yes, because you have to say why

SS02 both I think are critical I think

I both are critical?

SS02 because you can’t just justify it

SS06 ‘justify’ is not always because sometimes you just, remember that you show it in the class like this but I didn’t know why you did it? You know that Mike Hogg did that on the board? If it says justify you have to say why you do this? If you don’t know the theory behind it what would you say? Because, Mike Hogg did it on the board

SS02 yeah, ‘justify’ I would say

SS06 (laughs)

I is more critical?

SS02 yeah, it depends. There are equally critical

SS06 yeah, exactly. Sometimes it depends on the context if what is asked? Has many ways to be done

SS02 I would say in term of the word ‘show’ I think is very critical

I ‘show’ is critical?

SS02 yeah, very critical. Sometimes when they give ‘show that’ this equal this you won’t give like show that number 2 equal to something. They won’t give like something obvious, they try to make…

SS06 trigometry

SS02 yeah, ‘trigometry’ especially find square…

SS06 yes you have to make all those…

SS02 they give you formulas they won’t give you numbers like ‘2+3-5’ is it equal to ‘0’. They won’t straightway give you like that

I right

SS02 they won’t give you numbers. They give you formulas especially trigometry

SS06 yeah, trigometry you have to decide among ten identities which you have to apply every time

I so, it’s not obvious but it’s critical?

SS06 yes, certainly because you have to think…

SS02 obviously, they won’t give you something straight forward for sure. They won’t give you like so that this equal to this and it’s obvious

SS06 even though you have enough time it is very critical because you could try all the identities and see where it leads but that will take too much time. So, you must have some skills, intuition when you see it think which identity will bring cosine instead of (? 41:36:8). So, this is an example of critical thinking

I okay. I think that’s about. Thank you very much

SS02 you’re welcome

SS06 thank you