Stage 2

SS06 – Greece

SS02 – Libya

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

SS06 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…you can't just memorise the formulas and put in the numbers

I so knowledge is important, how about the extra thinking skills?

SS02 so 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 analyse things

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 what 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

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…the other ones I have to think I have to my critical thinking, but that’s why I didn’t finish many questions

SS06 during exam you must think, but you must think a lot during preparation

SS02 (SS02\_M\_I\_Libya)

I don’t think there’s lot of critical thinking question, I don’t know, it was different

I if you had acquired the essential CTs do you think you would have done better in the XM?

SS06 (SS06\_M\_EU\_Greece)

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, 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 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

SS02 yeah critical skills would helped, 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 it will take time, you just go to another question or you just should think about it. Yeah, but if you have the skills…you would have decided, you would have decision whether you skip it or to another one to get marks

SS06 yes, that’s the most important part

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

SS02 yeah these skills would have helped you to make decision 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, 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, in exams I’ll skipped questions which require thinking

I so you do the easy one first?

SS02 yeah (laughs)

I is there any questions in the exam which require critical skills which have not been taught or introduce in the class?

SS02 in EP, Part B, question eleven and twelve, most students didn’t answer that. We were not trained on that. I have attended all the lectures, but not all of them but the revision ones, she didn’t mention that question or like 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 that kind of question that I don’t know how to apply the formula…first time seeing that format

**Stage 3**

LANGUAGE

I how confident are you now?

SS02 out of five I would say 4 but not on the studies… it’s really hard, it’s overwhelming for me as English as a second language it’s hard for me, Maths I’m enjoying it, but Electronics is hard

SS10 It’s difficult, all is difficult I can’t give an excuse as being a second language, I just struggle to be honest, it’s lot harder than I expected it to be to be honest

I **how confident are you in critical thinking applying it in your studies? FINDING SOLUTION**

SS10 I think my perception of it has changed, originally I thought of it like just mathematical skills, thinking around things, but a lot of it seems to come down to finding solutions by any means, which lots of time specifically finding it out in Google (laughs) to answer something and then apply it in what you learn by research. So, yeah I’ve slightly a pragmatic view what critical thinking skill is perhaps…for example it’s actually separate from the course, me and my friend trying to start a website neither of us had experience on that but in the terms of getting it done and actually doing it involve lot of research and finding out the solution. What we’re doing is original we can’t just copy and paste, but we’re doing a research that’s what made me change my view on critical thinking a bit. It’s about finding things out and solution rather than thinking in an abstract like Maths and stuffs like that…becomes less abstract

SS02 I’m still confused like last year (laughs) I’m not sure really what it means but I think it’s about thinking about things differently other than the usual way trying as Google things up…just choosing different ways of finding of what you want to know…I always use internet to find out stuffs

7:44. Confidence 16:14 PAYING ATTENTION TO DETAILS 17:28.6

I what’ the perception towards CTs now?

SS02 the way I define it now is more related to all aspects of life, it’s not only academic life, not only study…I think I have some critical thinking skills that I used them, sometimes I don’t realise I’m using them. When I read about critical thinking then I realised oh! I think I have them (laughs)…in Mathematics, sometimes in modules it make you think in a specific way but Mathematics could be, depends how you approach the problem. There isn’t a single way, so sometimes you go around in a different way, and when I asked the lecturer, ‘is that right’?, ‘yes, that’s right’, she just can’t disagree just because it’s not her method. I think that, I don’t know it’s critical thinking or not, but it’s thinking differently from what’s usual…here you I mean in my country it’s you just do straight away…a single way