

DES19 Develop and extend critical and creative thinking skills - SQA Unit Code H9WT 04

Unit summary

This unit is for individuals who need to develop and extend their critical and creative thinking skills; it is about developing the habit of thinking in a more creative way. Creative thinking involves looking at things differently, musing, testing, experimenting and challenging existing thought patterns. Creative thinking can take place at any time at any place and can be applied to any type of issue or situation. When used effectively it can assist with the improvement of existing or the development of new or innovative services, products or processes.

What you must be able to do

- a) Develop the habit of asking questions from different perspectives
- b) Take responsibility for exploring a variety of information sources to provide relevant answers to your own questions
- c) Sort through information and ideas to identify the central questions, issues and challenges
- d) Challenge pre-conceptions and assumptions to determine actual constraints in defining a problem for resolution
- e) Explore and use a range of creative thinking techniques to generate ideas and responses
- f) Play around and be creative with ideas in relation to a perceived objective
- g) Identify and challenge blockers to creative thinking
- h) Consider and explore realities beyond the current situation
- i) Show willingness to take risks with ideas and thought processes
- j) Look around in familiar places for new inspiration and habitually record observations, experiences, ideas and reflective thoughts to broaden personal knowledge base
- k) Acknowledge and accept the opportunity for revelation when least expected
- l) Identify connections and associations from things that seem unconnected
- m) Identify, interrogate and challenge assumptions behind existing ideas
- n) Experiment with variations and explore and challenge a range of different solutions and ideas
- o) Consciously change perspectives and evaluate ideas and situations in new ways
- p) Involve others in ideas and how they might change or be improved
- q) Consciously challenge and question your own thought patterns and ways of responding to work and life situations

What you must know:

- 1) Common blockers to creative thinking both from an individual and organisational perspective
- 2) Definitions, concepts and history of creativity at an overview level
- 3) Different creative thinking techniques and how they work
- 4) How creativity applies everywhere, not just in traditionally “creative” contexts
- 5) Impacts of creative thinking on individuals and businesses
- 6) Techniques for filtering to process diverse information
- 7) Impact of convergence in the design industry
- 8) Ways of extending and developing individual creative thinking skills