

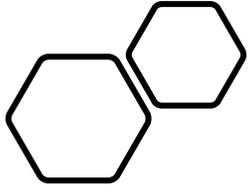


# Introduction to Advanced Level Learning

Study Skills

These sessions are designed to help unlock your potential to study at an Advanced Level.





There will be 4 sessions in total and each will focus on a different set of skills needed for independent study



CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS



RESEARCHING AND WRITING SKILLS



HOW TO ORGANISE YOURSELF AT SIXTH FORM. IT IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING YOU HAVE KNOWN LOWER DOWN THE SCHOOL



REVISION STRATEGIES – IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THESE WILL BE NEEDED THROUGHOUT YOUR A LEVELS AS YOUR WORK WILL NEED TO BE CONSTANTLY REVIEWED TO HELP YOU GET THE BEST MARK.

Critical  
Thinking!  
Lets warm  
up!

- The next three slides each contain four images. Which one word links the four images together?



4 pics one word



---



---



# What do we mean by critical thinking skills?

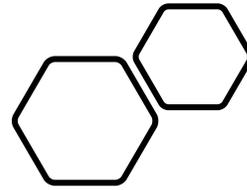
- In essence, critical thinking requires you to use your ability to reason. It is about being an active learner rather than a passive recipient of information.
- Critical thinkers rigorously question ideas and assumptions rather than accepting them at face value. They will always seek to determine whether the ideas, arguments and findings represent the entire picture and are open to finding that they do not.
- Critical thinkers will identify, analyse and solve problems.





1) Being an active learner

What do you think being an *active learner* means?



- Being an active learner means taking part in your learning. Rather than just sitting back and receiving information – it is about finding it yourself.



How can you be an *active learner*? What do you think this might look like in lessons?



This may involve asking more questions



Offering more opinions



Researching a topic in more detail after lessons but going beyond the work a teacher might normally set

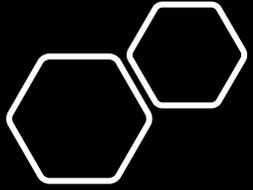
# Active Learner Activity



- Your teacher has asked you to research the Fall of the Berlin Wall or the psychologist Zimbardo or the Higgs-Boson particle. They have given two set pieces to read.
- How do you, as an active learner, approach this?



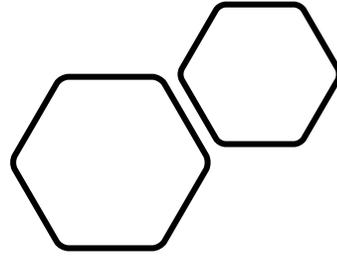
2) Being a critical  
thinker



What is being  
a critical  
thinker?

- [University of Cumbria – Critical Thinking](#)

Look at this  
headline and  
interpret it...



- **Decline in flying insects could bring about "ecological Armageddon" as three quarters wiped out in 30 years**

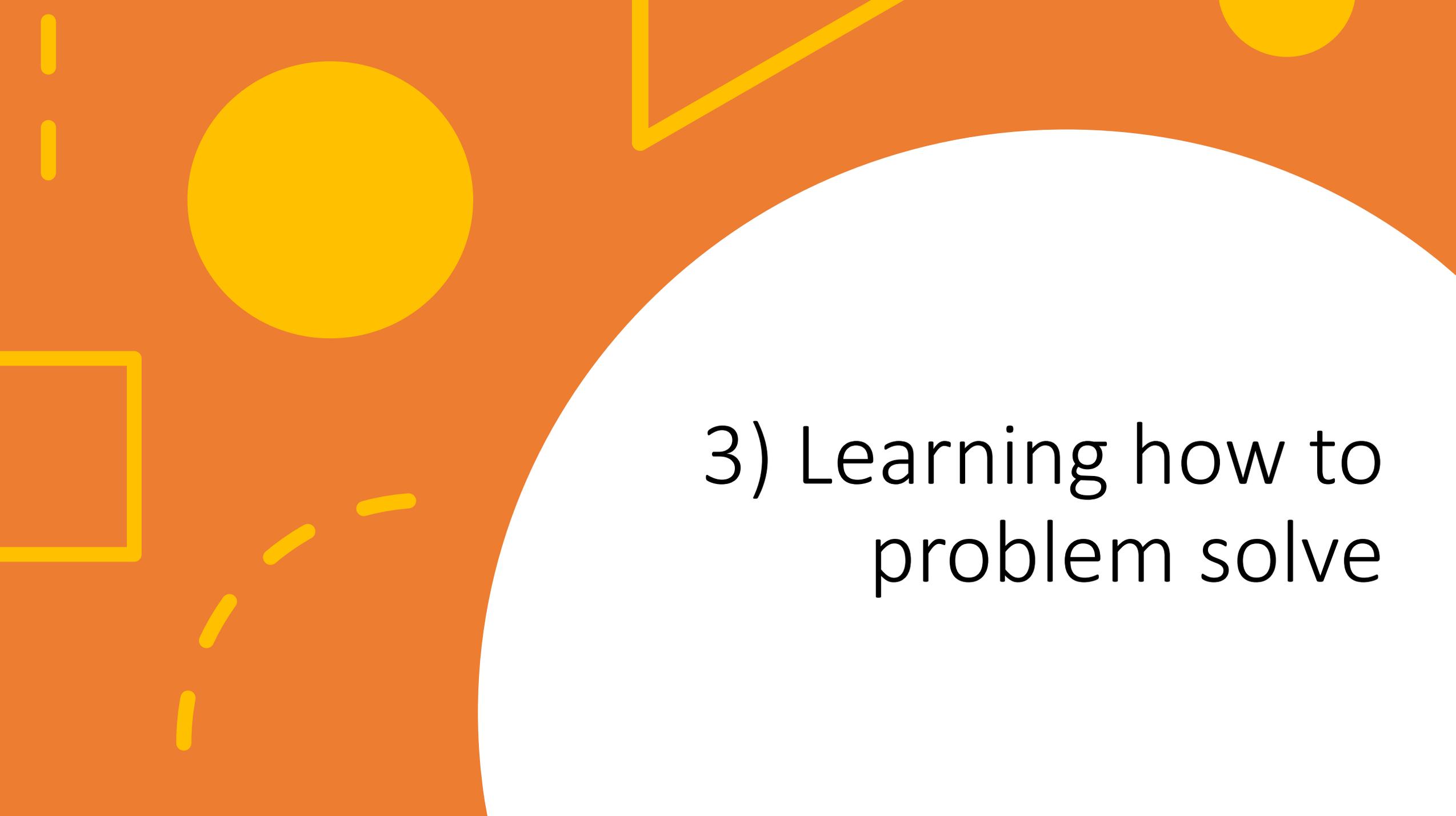
Now let's  
look at it  
critically

- **Decline in flying insects could bring about "ecological Armageddon" as three quarters wiped out in 30 years**



Decline in flying  
insects could  
bring about  
"ecological  
Armageddon" as  
three quarters  
wiped out in 30  
years

- **Who said it?**
  - *Someone you know? Someone in a position of authority or power? Does it matter who told you this?*
- **What did they say?**
  - *Did they give facts or opinions? What evidence do they have to support this? Did they leave anything out?*
- **Where did they say it?**
  - *Was it in public or in private? Did other people have a chance to respond and provide an alternative account?*
- **When did they say it?**
  - *Was it before, during or after an important event? Is timing important?*
- **Why did they say it?**
  - *Did they explain the reasoning behind their opinion? Were they trying to make someone look good or bad?*
- **How did they say it?**
  - *Were they happy or sad, angry or indifferent? Did they write it or say it? Could you understand what was said?*



3) Learning how to  
problem solve

As a critical thinker you will learn to identify, analyse and solve problems.

- Here are some steps to help you solve problems:
    1. Define and understand the problem
    2. Assess the scale of the problem
    3. Gather relevant information
    4. Identify the root causes
    5. Test the hypothesis
    6. Involve others
    7. Consider the proposed solution(s)
    8. Test the proposed solution
    9. Champion your decision
    10. Monitor the results
- 



So, try to solve this problem. Use as many of the ideas from the previous slide to help you

A man has to get a fox, a chicken, and a sack of corn across a river. He has a rowboat, and it can only carry him and one other thing.

If the fox and the chicken are left together, the fox will eat the chicken. If the chicken and the corn are left together, the chicken will eat the corn.

**How does the man do it?**