

What is critical thinking?

Being critical means being thoughtful and analytical about what you hear, see, read and experience.

Frohman & Lupton (2020, p5)

Avoid being biased

Consider a range of
options

Consider a range of
opinions

Objectively
consider evidence

Critical thinking

There are a number of processes and tools that can be used when applying critical thinking to a situation.

Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of evidence

Reflecting on the evidence to see if there are missing ideas or facts

Pulling different ideas together (synthesising) to create new ideas

Applying evidence to real situations

Justifying ideas, decisions and opinions with evidence from synthesised sources of information

Blooms Taxonomy

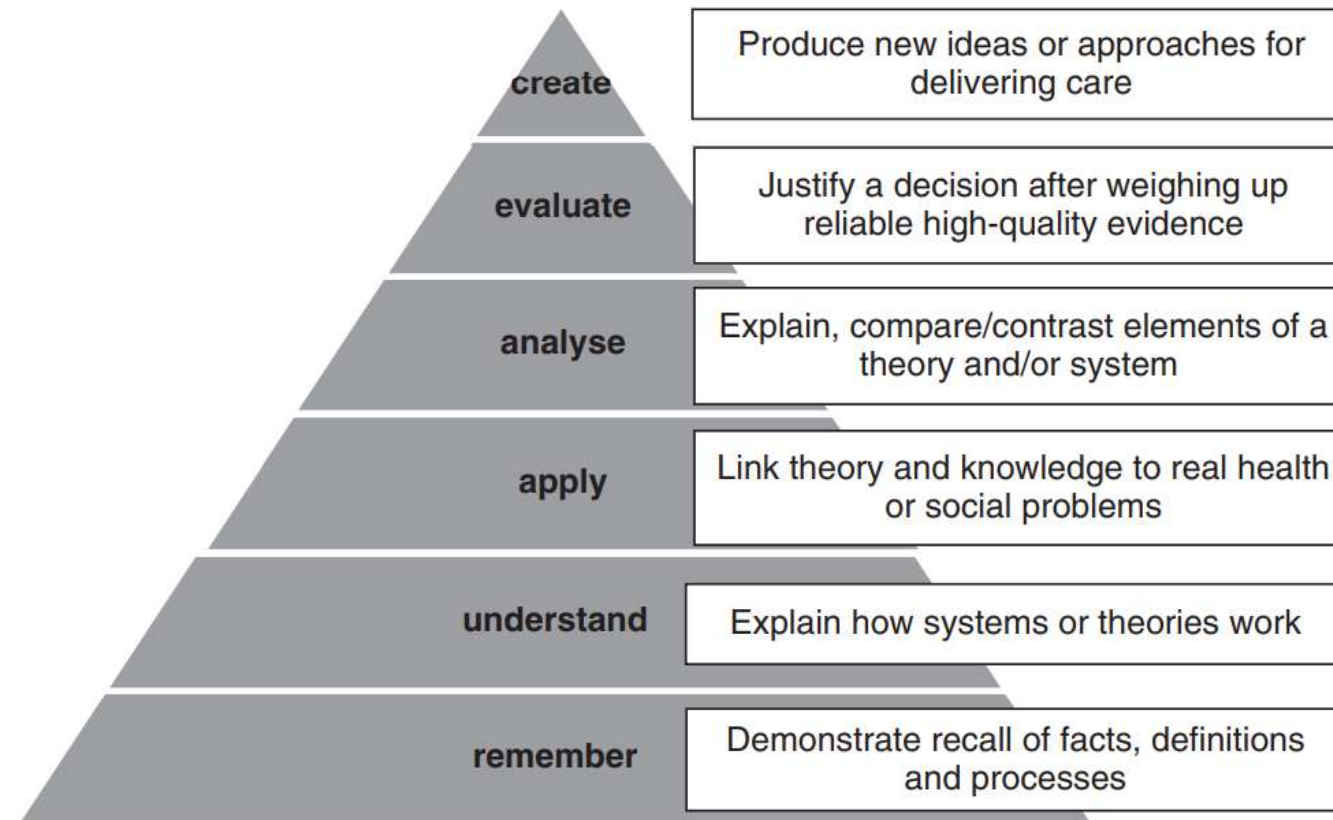
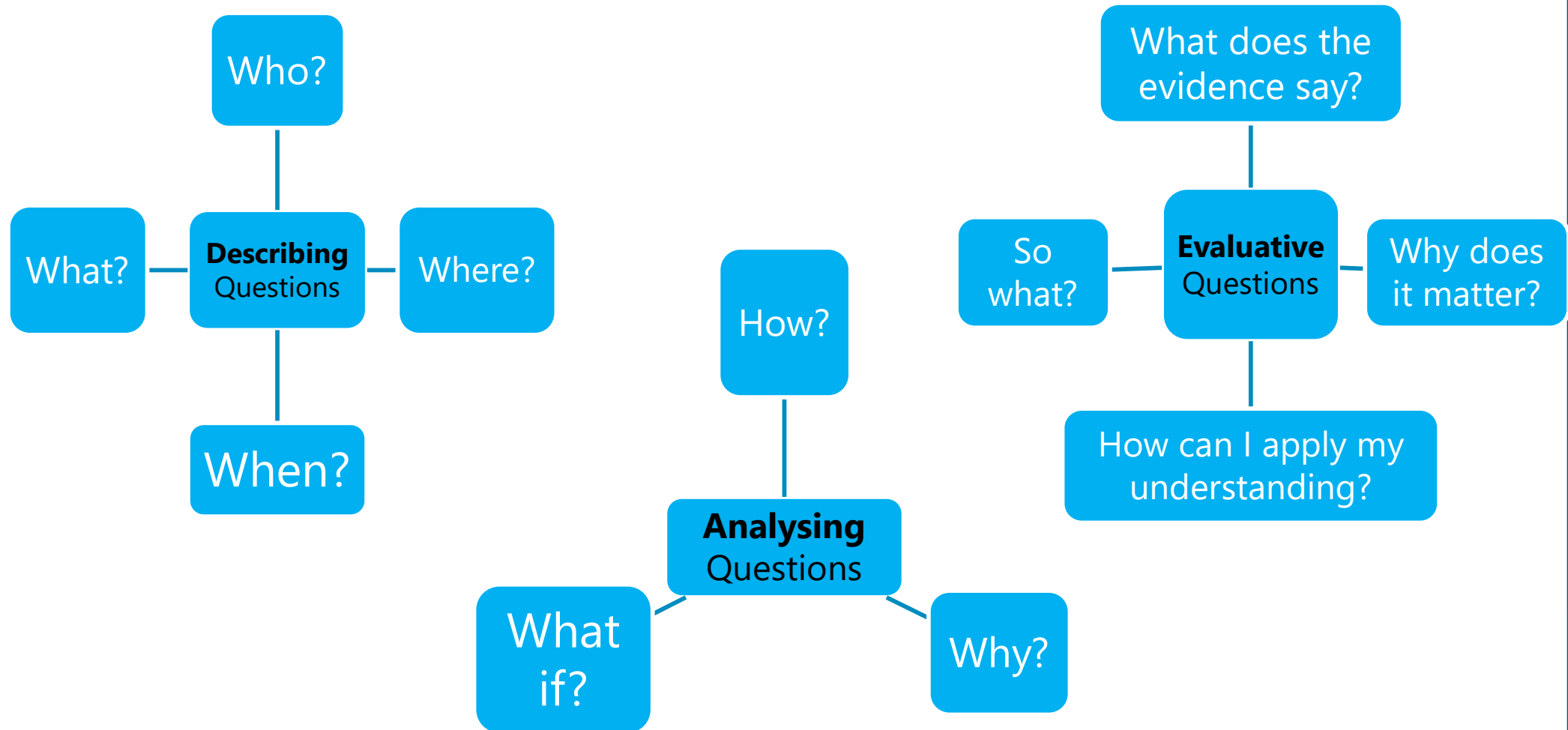


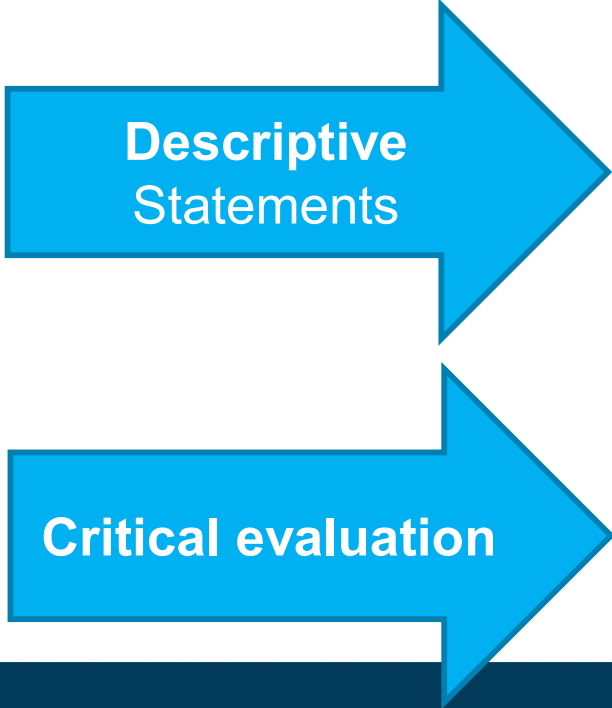
Figure 1.1 Example of Bloom's revised taxonomy (inspired by Ouda and Ahmed, 2016, p. 430)

Asking critical questions



Descriptive vs Critical Writing

Clearly, showing that you are critically thinking is important for both safe and effective leadership and management in professional practice and for meeting academic expectations.



Descriptive Statements

- Explains what a theory or model is
- Focuses on definitions and features
- Often answers: "What does this say?"

Critical evaluation

- Explores how well it works and *why*
- Considers limitations and alternative views
- Answers: "How useful is this, and in what situations?"

How to Develop Critical Evaluation

From week 2, we will be exploring a range of leadership and management theories, it is important to take note and think critically.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What are the strengths of this theory or approach?
- What are its weaknesses or limitations?
- Does it work better in certain industries or situations?
- What does research or evidence say?
- Are there alternative approaches?

Useful Sentence Starters

"This theory is useful because..."

"However, a limitation of this approach is..."

"This suggests that the theory may be more suitable when..."

"In contrast, other researchers argue that..."

"Overall, this indicates that..."

What Lecturers Are Looking For

- ✓ Clear understanding of theories
- ✓ Evidence of independent thinking
- ✓ Balanced arguments (not one-sided)
- ✓ Well-supported conclusions
- ✓ Application to real business situations

Critical evaluation is about thinking like a business professional questioning ideas, using evidence, and making reasoned judgements rather than just repeating information.