

How to review TARA practice and improve

Turn every practice result into a specific next drill by logging the question job, first failed move and reach.

THE SHORT ANSWER

A raw practice mark tells you what happened on that set. A good review explains why, records what you did not reach and chooses the next small repair.

Checked against the sources named in this guide, August 2026. British English. Free to share.

1 Make the result explain itself

The scored modules each have 22 questions, one mark per correct answer and no negative marking. Record more than correct answers. Keep the module, question job, first failed move, time used and questions left unseen.

Record	Critical Thinking	Problem Solving
Question job	The named official type	The named official kind
Route	Conclusion, bridge or evidence effect	Target, quantities, constraints or procedure
First break	The sentence where the inference changed	The first unit, number or operation that failed
Next move	The question to ask earlier	The check to perform before choosing

1 The tell

Careless is not a repair. Write the move that failed: I chose a reason instead of the conclusion, or I used a total where the question needed a rate.

2 Review by the job named in the stem

Module	Review question
Critical Thinking	Did I do the named job, or answer a nearby one?
Problem Solving	What quantity was the target, and which constraint did my route use?
Writing Task	Did the response consider the proposition and communicate the chosen view clearly?

The current Question Guide names seven Critical Thinking types and three Problem Solving kinds. Use those labels in your log. If the same label appears in more than one miss, it is a better next drill than a vague instruction to be more careful.

1. Explain the question job in your own words without looking at the options.
2. Name the first move that made your route fail.

3. Redo the question and reject the nearest distractor for a named reason.
4. Test the same move on a new question before returning to a mixed set.

3 Use timing evidence without practising panic

The current technical report covers 2,626 candidates. Median time was just below 40 minutes for Critical Thinking and exactly 40 minutes for Problem Solving. Approximately 1% of Critical Thinking candidates and 8% of Problem Solving candidates had unreached items.

Responses left blank or answered in under five seconds affected 4% of Critical Thinking responses and 28% of Problem Solving responses in the report. These are administration findings, not a target for your own score.

1. Solve a small set until the route is reliable.
2. Add a gentle limit and log the first slow move.
3. Mix question jobs while protecting the final questions.
4. Compare accuracy and reach in a full 40-minute module.

Worked example Choose the next drill

Your illustrative log shows 17/22 in Critical Thinking, three unseen questions and two misses labelled Assumption. Which next action is most useful?

- A. Convert 17/22 into an official TARA score.
- B. Repeat a full paper without reviewing the two Assumption misses.
- C. Run a short Assumption set, then repeat a timed block while tracking reach.
- D. Decide that Problem Solving is your weaker module.

Correct: C repairs a named job and tests whether reach improves. The numbers are a practice log, not a scale.

Trap: The other routes either invent a conversion, skip the diagnosis or draw a cross-module conclusion from one row.

4 Review the Writing Task without inventing a mark

The Writing Task is one task chosen from three prompts, limited to 750 words and unscored by UAT-UK. A copy goes to the participating university where the course requires TARA. Review the response against the task, not against a made-up numerical result.

- Did the response consider different aspects of the proposition?
- Are the ideas selected and organised rather than repeated?
- Does the wording stay concise, accurate and effective?
- Is the response within 750 words?

5 Turn review into the next session

Use this cycle after every meaningful set:

1. Count the recurring question-job and reach notes.
2. Choose one repair that appears more than once.
3. Build a short set for that job and one nearby job.
4. Redo the original questions after a gap without reading the explanation first.
5. Finish with a mixed timed block and update the log.

Keep full modules for decisions that need full-module evidence: reach, pacing and sustained writing. Use short sets for a skill that needs repair. A full paper cannot teach you which step failed unless you review it.

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he review codes and drills are original study tools. They do not claim to be an official marking scheme.

6 Sources

- [UAT-UK current TARA Question Guide](#): named question jobs and public Writing Task example.
- [UAT-UK TARA Content Specification](#): scored-module rules, Writing Task purpose and 750-word boundary.
- [UAT-UK TARA Technical Report 2025-26](#): published timing, reach and response evidence.