

TARA question types, decoded

Translate the seven Critical Thinking types, three Problem Solving kinds and the Writing Task into the move each one asks you to make.

THE SHORT ANSWER

The current TARA Question Guide names seven Critical Thinking question types and three Problem Solving kinds. They are a map of operations, not a published weighting or score formula.

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

1 Critical Thinking has seven named jobs

Critical Thinking asks you to understand an argument and assess whether its reasons establish its claim. Translate the label into a question before you inspect the options.

Official type	The move to make
Identifying the Main Conclusion	Separate the supported claim from its reasons
Drawing a Conclusion	Choose only what follows from the information given
Identifying an Assumption	Find the unstated bridge the argument needs
Assessing the Impact of Additional Evidence	Ask whether new evidence changes the support
Detecting Reasoning Errors	Locate where the conclusion stops following from the reasons
Matching Arguments	Match the structure of reasons and conclusion, not the subject
Applying Principles	Apply the stated rule with its scope and conditions

1 The tell

If your answer sounds like an opinion about the topic, return to the job. The public Critical Thinking description is about whether reasons establish a claim.

2 Problem Solving has three kinds

Problem Solving assumes the basic mathematical knowledge set out in the specification. The teachable move is choosing and checking a route for a problem that may not look familiar.

Official kind	The move to make
Relevant Selection	Keep information that can change the requested output
Finding Procedures	Build a sequence that changes the starting state to the target
Identifying Similarity	Find the relationship that stays fixed when the wrapper changes

- Write the output and unit before processing every number.
- Translate the constraint into a condition your route must satisfy.
- Check the final quantity against the wording, units and boundary.

3 The Writing Task is its own operation

The Writing Task lets candidates consider different aspects of a proposition and communicate them effectively in writing. The answer is limited to 750 words, so the task rewards disciplined selection and organisation of ideas, with concise, accurate and effective expression.

Choose one of three prompts and treat the word limit as part of the problem. The specification says dictionaries and electronic spell-checkers are not permitted.

4 Do not turn the map into a blueprint

The current Question Guide contains seven Critical Thinking examples, three Problem Solving examples and one Writing example. Those counts describe the public guide sample. They do not establish a live question distribution.

The evidence report classifies 1,528 BMAT and TSA archive questions as legacy proxy material. It keeps that material separate from the 11 current guide examples. Use the map to choose a skill, not to predict how many questions of each type will appear.

Worked example Name the job before the answer

A council says library visits rose after opening hours were extended, so the later closing time caused the rise. Which operation should you use first?

- A. Identify the Main Conclusion.
- B. Find the necessary Assumption.
- C. Calculate a percentage.
- D. Apply a spatial formula.
- E. Write a 750-word response.

Correct: B is the useful first operation. The claim about the cause depends on an unstated bridge.

Trap: The topic contains a change over time, but it does not turn the item into a calculation, spatial problem or Writing Task.

5 Use the label as a route card

If the label says	Write first	Then check
Main Conclusion	The claim the reasons support	Did I choose a reason?
Assumption	The bridge the claim needs	Is it necessary?
Reasoning Error	The broken step	Does it attack the inference?
Relevant Selection	The requested output and unit	Did every number change it?
Finding Procedures	The starting state and operation	Is the next step valid?
Identifying Similarity	The relationship that stays fixed	Does it survive a new case?
Writing Task	The proposition and selected points	Does the response stay within 750 words?

These route cards are a study translation of the official names. They are not an official marking scheme.

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he public sample is small. Use it to learn the named jobs, then use clearly labelled practice to repeat the move. Do not treat the sample count as a prediction of a live paper.

6 Sources

- [UAT-UK current TARA Question Guide](#): the seven Critical Thinking types, three Problem Solving kinds and public examples.
- [UAT-UK current TARA Content Specification](#): assessed modules, assumed mathematics and Writing Task purpose.