



## Critical Thinking

# Thinking and Reasoning Skills

Havant Sixth Form College is a further education institution based in Hampshire, providing an extensive range of post-16 courses and qualifications to over 1,150 students. Included in their varied offering is the OCR Thinking and Reasoning Skills Award, a flexible, stand-alone Level 2 qualification designed to complement other courses of study at Level 2 or Level 3, including GCSEs and A Levels.

The course, created by OCR in partnership with teachers and other experts, is designed to help students develop a wide range of skills including conceptual, enquiry, problem-solving and reasoning skills.

*Thinking and Reasoning Skills allowed us to get our students to practise the key skills that are required for A Level and beyond.*

For the 2011/12 academic year, the college made the Thinking and Reasoning Skills qualification compulsory for Year 12 students. It is taken alongside the AS Levels by the college's cohort and is timetabled twice per week for the full year of study. Jayne Davis, Vice Principal at the college commented: *"We had a small level of reluctance from some learners ... but in the same year as we made it compulsory our AS results rose above benchmark for the first time in a number of years"*.

There are a host of varied free materials and resources available to support the delivery of the course, including teacher resources, assessment materials and specimen question papers and mark schemes, and more, at [ocr.org.uk/thinkingreasoningskills](http://ocr.org.uk/thinkingreasoningskills).

*We have found it very easy to work with OCR: the support is good and the online resources are useful.*