The Power of Critical Thinking - Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims 7th edition Vaughn Test Bank

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Test Bank

The Power of Critical Thinking, Seventh Edition
Lewis Vaughn

Chapter 2: Obstacles to Critical Thinking

Multiple Choice
(Questions that appear on student site are marked with a plus sign.)

+1. When we decide to accept a claim solely on the grounds that it advances or coincides with our interests, we are guilty of
   a. group-centered thinking.
   b. biased thinking.
   c. tribalism.
   d. self-centered thinking.
   Answer: d

2. A guideline that is *not* likely to help you avoid self-interested thinking is
   a. watch out when things get personal.
   b. tell people what they want to hear.
   c. be alert to ways that critical thinking can be undermined.
   d. ensure that nothing has been left out.
   Answer: b

3. The twentieth-century philosopher Bertrand Russell claimed that the passionate holding of an opinion is a sure sign of
   a. critical thinking.
   b. deference to the opinions of others.
   c. a false belief.
   d. a lack of reasons to support the opinion.
   Answer: d

+4. The _____ effect is the phenomenon in which a false claim is believed to be true simply because it is familiar.
   a. false consensus
   b. illusion-of-truth
   c. mere exposure
   d. Dunning-Kruger
   Answer: b

5. The urge to distort your thinking to save face is
   a. a sign of self-interested thinking.
   b. abnormal.
   c. useful in deciding an issue.

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d. a symptom of groupthink.
Answer: a

6. A common flaw in reasoning is the failure to consider evidence or arguments that
   a. strengthen your case.
   b. are familiar or predictable.
   c. have been held previously.
   d. do not support preferred claims or positions.
   Answer: d

7. Subjective relativism is the idea that
   a. truth is relative to societies.
   b. truth depends on what someone believes.
   c. there is no such thing as truth.
   d. some objective truths are about our subjective states.
   Answer: b

8. Appealing to popularity and stereotyping are both forms of
   a. self-centered thinking.
   b. confirmation bias.
   c. group-centered thinking.
   d. motivated reasoning.
   Answer: c

+9. Classifying individuals into groups according to oversimplified or prejudiced attitudes or opinions is known as
   a. stereotyping.
   b. groupthink.
   c. racism.
   d. tribalism.
   Answer: a

10. Self-interested thinking leaves people vulnerable to
   a. subjective relativism.
   b. prejudice.
   c. propaganda and manipulation.
   d. tribalism.
   Answer: c

+11. According to Lawrence Blum, inferiorization and antipathy are the two factors that define
   a. prejudice.
   b. stereotyping.
   c. racism.
   d. tribalism.
   Answer: c

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12. Self-interest alone cannot
    a. establish the truth of a claim.
    b. be controlled.
    c. be detected.
    d. affect our motivations and desires.
    Answer: a

13. You are most likely to let your self-interest get in the way of clear thinking when you
    a. are indifferent to your circumstances.
    b. have a personal stake in the conclusions you reach.
    c. have no commitments.
    d. try to control your emotions.
    Answer: b

+14. When we seek out and use only evidence that supports our existing beliefs, we are guilty of
    a. self-centered thinking.
    b. stereotyping.
    c. groupthink.
    d. confirmation bias.
    Answer: d

+15. When we rely on evidence not because it's trustworthy but because it's memorable or striking, we fall prey to
    a. the availability error.
    b. the illusion-of-truth effect.
    c. the subjectivist fallacy.
    d. the mere exposure effect.
    Answer: a

+16. One implication of social relativism is that the beliefs of a society
    a. cannot be true.
    b. cannot be changed.
    c. cannot be mistaken.
    d. can be improved.
    Answer: c

17. Believing a proposition without good reasons is
    a. a sign of strong emotions.
    b. a shortcut to supportable beliefs.
    c. a recipe for incorrect conclusions.
    d. rational.
    Answer: c

18. Group pressure generally does not help you to
    a. proportion your belief to the strength of reasons.
    b. proportion your belief to the strength of group influence.

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c. reject claims endorsed by groups.
d. accept only claims endorsed by preferred groups.
Answer: a

+19. The _____ effect is the phenomenon of being ignorant of how ignorant we are.
a. false consensus
b. illusion-of-truth
c. mere exposure
d. Dunning-Kruger
Answer: d

+20. Reasoning for the purpose of supporting a predetermined conclusion rather than to uncover the truth is known as
a. the subjectivist fallacy.
b. motivated reasoning.
c. self-centered thinking.
d. stereotyping.
Answer: b

21. The _____ effect is the phenomenon in which the repeated presentation of words or images induces a favorable feeling toward them even in the absence of good reasons or evidence.
a. false consensus
b. illusion-of-truth
c. mere exposure
d. Dunning-Kruger
Answer: c

22. Accepting a claim solely because it furthers your interests is
a. sometimes reasonable.
b. contrary to principles of critical thinking.
c. consistent with principles of critical thinking.
d. a shortcut to reliable conclusions.
Answer: b

23. The tendency to give more credence to a statement if it comes from a friend is called
a. homophily.
b. the false consensus effect.
c. confirmation bias.
d. availability error.
Answer: a

24. In order to count as knowledge, a claim must be
a. certain.
b. beyond all reasonable doubt.
c. backed by logically conclusive reasons.

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d. beyond all possible doubt.
Answer: b

25. Prejudice is a negative or adverse belief about others based on
a. false consensus.
b. critical reasoning.
c. insufficient reasons.
d. motivated reasoning.
Answer: c

+26. Subjective relativism implies that individual persons are
a. often wrong.
b. intolerant.
c. guilty of self-centered thinking.
d. infallible.
Answer: d

27. A central criticism of subjective relativism is that it
a. promotes intolerance.
b. is self-defeating.
c. is accepted only by intellectuals.
d. is a form of self-centered thinking.
Answer: b

28. According to the text, the only way to counter the influence of groupthink is to
a. watch out when things get personal.
b. be alert to the ways critical thinking can be undermined.
c. proportion your belief to the strength of reasons.
d. ensure that nothing has been left out.
Answer: c

29. According to _____ we know much less than we think we do or nothing at all.
a. social relativists
b. philosophical skeptics
c. critical thinkers
d. subjective relativists
Answer: b

30. A set of fundamental ideas that helps us make sense of a wide range of important issues in life is known as a
a. prejudice.
b. conceptual scheme.
c. philosophy.
d. worldview.
Answer: d

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True/False
(Questions that appear on student site are marked with a plus sign.)

1. One problem with social relativism is that it undermines the notion that the beliefs of different societies are all equal.
   a. True
   b. False
   Answer: False

+2. According to critics of subjective relativism, if the claim "All truth is relative" is objectively true, then it is objectively false.
   a. True
   b. False
   Answer: True

+3. According to the analysis of Lawrence Blum, racism is defined as the belief that races exist and are differentiated by significant moral, intellectual, or cultural characteristics.
   a. True
   b. False
   Answer: False

+4. In its most general sense, evidence is something that guarantees the truth of a statement.
   a. True
   b. False
   Answer: False

+5. From the perspective of critical thinking, there is nothing inherently wrong with accepting a claim that furthers your own interests.
   a. True
   b. False
   Answer: True

6. Emotional protestations and rejections of relevant evidence often signal self-interested thinking.
   a. True
   b. False
   Answer: True

7. A common flaw in reasoning is the failure to take relative truth into account.
   a. True
   b. False
   Answer: False

+8. The only available remedy for our tendency to resist contrary evidence is to make a conscious effort to look for supporting evidence.

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a. True
b. False
Answer: False

+9. Someone who believes that Honda Civics are unsafe cars after seeing one involved in a traffic accident, has fallen prey to the mere exposure effect.
a. True
b. False
Answer: False

10. Group thinking can generate narrow-mindedness, resistance to change, and stereotyping.
a. True
b. False
Answer: True

11. According to recent research, the backfire effect is a far weaker phenomenon than was previously supposed.
a. True
b. False
Answer: True

12. There are some things about ourselves that are relative because they are one way for us and another way for someone else.
a. True
b. False
Answer: True

13. Everyone has a worldview.
a. True
b. False
Answer: True

+14. Emotions have no place in clear critical thinking.
a. True
b. False
Answer: False

+15. To help avoid motivated reasoning, we should be reasonably skeptical of all sources, especially of those that support our beliefs.
a. True
b. False
Answer: True

16. Some philosophers are skeptics.
a. True
b. False

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Answer: True

17. If knowledge requires certainty, then there is very little we can know.
    a. True
    b. False
    Answer: True

+18. According to the most plausible criterion for knowledge, claims must be beyond all possible doubt in order to count as knowledge.
    a. True
    b. False
    Answer: False

19. The Dunning-Kruger effect is made worse by the tendency of many to believe that they are experts about something simply because they know a little about the subject.
    a. True
    b. False
    Answer: True

+20. The popularity of a belief is always a good indicator of its truth.
    a. True
    b. False
    Answer: False

Short Answer/Short Essay

1. What is self-centered thinking and how can we identify and overcome its effects?

2. Do you agree that it is immoral to believe claims without good evidence? Why or why not?

3. How does Lawrence Blum define racism and why does he think the term is sometimes misapplied?

4. Provide a specific example of stereotyping in society or politics and explain how it undermines critical thinking.

5. What kinds of obstacles to critical thinking can be created by our membership in groups? Have you experienced any of these obstacles in your own life?

6. Describe a real-world example of motivated reasoning and explain what is problematic about it from the perspective of critical thinking.

7. What are some of the most prevalent types of cognitive biases found on social media? Provide a concrete example of each type.

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8. What is a worldview? What are some central elements of your worldview?

9. What are some of the implausible implications of subjective relativism?

10. Are you a social relativist? Why or why not?

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