**Critical Thinking Useful Phrases (You don’t have to use them all as not all relevant to your topic)**

**Relating to theories/arguments etc.:**

* There are a number of strengths/weaknesses etc. with this theory/argument. Firstly ---. Secondly ---. More/most importantly/significantly
* A (particular/important) strength of this is
* One/a further (major/key) criticism of Smith’s work is that
* A (serious) weakness/problem with this theory /argument/ viewpoint/ explanation/proposal/interpretation is that
* However, this fails to/does not appear to take account of --- What Smith fails to do is
* Smith fails to fully acknowledge the importance of/need for ---etc. Smith offers no explanation for/omits to explain/mention
* This could be challenged on the basis that
* This relies too heavily on/places too much emphasis on
* A counter argument might be that
* It might be argued, however, that
* An alternative explanation might be that
* One question that might need to be asked is
* It is questionable whether
* There is an inconsistency in this argument:
* An apparent inconsistency/omission is that
* Smith contradicts himself in this when he states that
* This argument/theory etc. does not/fails to stand up to scrutiny when considering.
* This is/would not be appropriate in situations /cases where
* There are/could be difficulties/limitations with applying this in practice, however.
* This could present difficulties in practice. For example
* The practical implications of this need to be carefully considered.
* Implementation of this has not been without/has presented (considerable/numerous/some) difficulties.

**Relating to practices/methods/models:**

* This has/had the benefit/positive effect/advantage of
* A positive outcome of this was
* This appears to have been successful largely because
* This method/approach is particularly/mainly appropriate/useful in cases/circumstances where
* One/another problem/disadvantage/drawback with this method/approach is/was that
* This model/method/approach does/did not address/take account of
* Perhaps the most serious disadvantage/limitation of this method is
* There are a number of limitations when following this approach/using this method/model.
* This method/model has a number of limitations/disadvantages This method/approach does not lend itself to cases/situations where

**Introducing other people’s criticisms:**

* This has been criticised/challenged by
* Critics (Smith, 2008; Jones, 2009) have argued that
* Many/some have challenged this on the grounds that

**Constructive suggestions:**

* A better/more systematic study would
* It would be/would have been better/more beneficial/appropriate/useful/effective to
* A better/more helpful etc. approach/method etc. would be/have been to
* The X approach/model would be/have been more appropriate/beneficial in this case/these circumstances.
* This situation/these circumstances would lend itself/themselves better to the X model/approach.
* Further explanation/clarification/research is required/recommended.

**Good books:**

* Buzan, T., 2010. *The Mind map book: unlock your creativity, boost your memory, change your life*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Pearson BBC Active.
* Buzan, T., 2011. *Buzan’s study skills: mind maps, memory techniques, speed reading*. New ed. Harlow: BBC Active.
* Cottrell, S., 2011. *Critical thinking skills: developing effective analysis and argument*. 2. ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
* Cottrell, S., 2013. *The study skills handbook 4th edition*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.