

лись слишком большими, и это становится все более очевидным. Именно поэтому экспертное сообщество в европейских странах в настоящее время активно занимается разработкой новых моделей интеграции иммигрантов, позволяющих обеспечить более успешное включение их в принимающее общество.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Today, when we think of education, either it is English or any other topic or field, we think in terms of the 21st century skills.

The term “21st century skills” refers to a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits that are believed to be critically important to success in today’s world. These are the skills that can be applied in all academic subject areas, and in all educational, career, and other settings throughout a student’s life. They are conditioned by the so-called “digital revolution” which, in the opinion of Douglas Engelbard (1997), an American engineer and inventor, and an early computer and Internet pioneer, “offers the potential for humans to learn new ways of thinking and organizing social structures”.

So, in accordance with the 21st century skills concept teaching students the most relevant, useful and universally applicable skills should be prioritized in today’s education. The basic idea is that students, who will come of age in the 21st century, need to be taught different skills than those learned by students in the 20th century, and that the skills they learn should reflect the specific demands that will be placed upon them in a complex, competitive, knowledge-based, information-age, technology-driven economy and society.

The following list provides a brief overview of the knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits commonly associated with 21st century skills:

- critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning, analysis, interpretation, synthesizing information;
- research skills and practices, interrogative questioning;
- creativity, artistry, curiosity, imagination, innovation, personal expression;
- perseverance, self-direction, planning, self-discipline, adaptability, initiative;
- oral and written communication, public speaking and presenting, listening;
- leadership, teamwork, collaboration, cooperation, facility in using virtual workspaces;
- information and communication technology literacy, media and internet literacy, data interpretation and analysis, computer programming;
- civic, ethical, and social-justice literacy;
- economic and financial literacy, entrepreneurialism;
- global awareness, multicultural literacy, humanitarianism;
- scientific literacy and reasoning, the scientific method;
- environmental and conservation literacy, ecosystems understanding;
- health and wellness literacy, including nutrition, diet, exercise, and public health and safety.

Out of all the above mentioned skills, critical thinking is high on the list.

So, what is critical thinking and why is it so important today? “Critical thinking means making reasoned judgments that are logical and well-thought out. It is a way of thinking in which you don’t simply accept all arguments and conclusions you are exposed to but rather have an attitude involving questioning such arguments and conclusions. It requires wanting to see what evidence is involved to support a particular argument or conclusion.” (Tara DeLecce) Critical thinking is not a fad. It is the skill that prepares students for the ever-changing and unpredictable world we live in. It helps students observe an object (fact, person, data) from different points of view, makes them get out of their comfort zone and challenge their preconceptions about the object, create new, better-informed ones.

Moreover, critical thinking has an impact on students’ interpersonal skills. By thinking critically and seeing things from different angles, students become more open-minded and empathetic, better communicators, more inclined to collaborate with their peers and discuss their ideas. Thinking more about students as individuals, it is possible to say that critical thinking helps them develop their creative side by allowing their thinking process to run more freely, and explore more possibilities. It will eventually make them better decision-makers.

The problem, however, is how to do that, how to teach it. Here are some simple tips that might help the teachers develop their students’ critical thinking skills:

- do not answer the questions right away, give the students time to find the answers on their own;
- foster critical thinking by asking questions and having students think of the answers;
- help students develop their own ideas, help them move progressively towards their goals;
- encourage creativity;
- encourage collaboration and communication with the peers.

Critical thinking will not only develop the students’ intellectual abilities, but it will help them become aware of their own knowledge and make them an active and mindful component of the education process.

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BREXIT AND THE AWARENESS OF MAJOR SOCIAL CHANGES IN BRITAIN IN ATTAINING LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

The results of the 2019 recent decisions of the British Parliament concerning Brexit are of major importance for any person involved in language acquisition, translation and comprehension of major changes in British society. Following the