



What is “Critical Thinking”?

What means critical thinking?

The answer to that question can be found in Buddhism: Lord Buddha once told his students:

“When you want to buy a piece of gold you first check and examine it thoroughly. You should act the same way when dealing with my advice and teaching”.

This means no one should just blindly accept and adopt a teaching or advice only because it was given by an authority. But everyone should examine its correctness and wisdom by his/her own and by personally thinking and reflecting the idea. So critical thinking means asking questions, raising doubt, discussing and examining ideas before accepting them. Because experience tells us that no human being is ever perfect.

Therefore this study textbook not only intends to encourage its readers to critically analyze, reflect and question what authorities, officials or other high ranking persons say. But it also wants to encourage a critical reflection of what is written in this book itself. Every reader should personally think about the truth and value of the information and advice which is offered by this book. Are the ideas of this book really acceptable and suitable for the Cambodian reality? What can be changed or amended before adopting the ideas?

This lively exchange of proposals and critical ideas will make Buddha's word come true and lead to a Cambodian future of true gold.