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## Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

### Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF)  
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#### Unit 3 - Snippet 83

#### Quiz 'Is that believable?' – Answer key

**Question 1 (snippet 78):** Correct answer – b)

Tortoises are reptiles with feet, mainly living on land. Many people confuse tortoises with water-dwelling turtles that have flippers. But an experienced critical thinker would check whether the premises are true before deciding whether the conclusion follows and thus whether the argument is good or poor. Since the premise is not true the argument is poor/uncogent. However, if the argument read "**Leatherback turtles are reptiles with flippers instead of feet. One can conclude that it is likely they must live mainly in water**" it would be a good argument, since leatherback turtles do indeed have flippers.

**Question 2 (snippet 79):** Correct answer – b) and d)

If Theresa tells the truth, it must be December. There are two days in the year (using the Gregorian calendar as you would likely do in Namibia) when Theresa's statement can be true: the 30th or the 31st of December. If it's one of these days and she will visit her mother on the day after tomorrow, she will visit her either on the 1st or the 2nd of January and thus her visit will be in the next year.

**Question 3 (snippet 80):** Correct answer – a)

Based on the given premises, one cannot conclude that C must be the brother of A. A, B and C seem indeed to be siblings as we know that A is a brother of B and B a brother of C. But Abdulai hasn't considered that nothing has been said about the gender of C. So, C could be a sister of B and A and the conclusion is poor if based solely on the given premises. A critical thinker should always think through very carefully whether a conclusion really follows from the premises or whether instead unverified assumptions have been made.

**Question 4 (snippet 81):** Correct answer – b)

**Question 5 (snippet 82):** Correct answer – b), d) and e)

Do you agree with our answers for questions 4 and 5? Why or why not? You may want to discuss that with your fellow students. We will give explanations to our answers in the following snippet.