

Chapter 2

Student: _____

1. Which of the following is a strategy that falls under the heading of reason?
 - A. deduction
 - B. spatial-temporal reasoning
 - C. generalization
 - D. imagination
 - E. All of these are strategies that fall under the heading of reason.

2. Which of the following is true of the relationship between gender/racial stereotypes and critical thinking?
 - A. Traditional gender and racial stereotypes show that some people are simply not as capable of critical thought as others.
 - B. Such stereotypes are barriers to critical thought, since they prevent you from considering other points of view.
 - C. Gender stereotypes show that women are too emotional for critical thought.
 - D. Gender stereotypes show that only men should be allowed in public office, where the use of reason is most important.

3. Which of the following is a way that emotion can help us reason better?

- A. Emotion can help us notice problems.
- B. Emotion can move us to resolve problems.
- C. Emotion can help us to consider problems from the perspective of others.
- D. All of these answers are correct.

4. Which of the following is a description of the Turing test?

- A. A computer scientist tests how many computations a computer can perform per second to determine whether or not the computer is intelligent.
- B. A computer is given a series of questions and, if it answers enough of them correctly, it is intelligent.
- C. A human being has two conversations through a computer screen. One conversation is with another human. One conversation is with a computer. If the human is unable to consistently tell which conversation is with the computer, then the computer is intelligent.
- D. A computer is asked to perform a series of mathematical calculations. If it can do so without complaining, then it is intelligent.

5. Which of the following is a problem with fideism?

- A. Fideism allows that we can improve or revise our religious beliefs on the basis of reason.
- B. Fideism gives us no way of knowing which religious beliefs we should hold as a matter of faith.
- C. Believing something, in itself, shows that it is correct.
- D. Fideism requires that you only believe religious claims when there is evidence supporting those claims.

6. Critical rationalists maintain which of the following?

- A. All religious beliefs must be supported by evidence.
- B. Religious beliefs can be held in the face of contrary evidence.
- C. Religious beliefs can be based on faith, while remaining consistent with the evidence.
- D. Religious beliefs should never be held, because there is no possible evidence that can support the existence of God.

7. Which of the following is a component of reason?

- A. sets of premises that provide support for conclusions
- B. appeals to self-interest
- C. appeals to fear
- D. None of these answers is correct.

8. Which of the following is true, according to evolutionary theory?

- A. Only human beings are capable of thought.
- B. Human beings are part of a divinely instituted order among beings. Humans are above animals, but below angels and God.
- C. Reason is an adaptation of humans and other animals that promotes survival.
- D. All animals are capable of using reason.

9. Which of the following is true of dreams?

- A. Dreams are capable of helping us solve our problems.
- B. Dreams are completely understood by science.
- C. Dreams have never been a source of important ideas.
- D. Dreams are merely the release of irrational impulses and emotions.

10. Gender stereotypes can be harmful for which of the following reasons?

- A. They reveal that women are as incapable of reasoning as men.
- B. They harm men that wish to pursue traditionally female careers.
- C. They may prevent women from taking on roles that require caring for others.
- D. All of these answers are correct.

11. Which of the following allowed Temple Grandin to design more humane means of slaughtering cattle?

- A. She treated the cattle as incapable of reason and purely driven by instinct.
- B. She kept a dream journal.
- C. She used imagination and spatial-temporal reasoning.
- D. She relied purely on rational argumentation.

12. Liberal feminists hold which of the following positions?

- A. Gender differences are solely the result of biological ingrained dispositions.
- B. Gender differences are mostly the result of differences in socialization.
- C. Women are not as capable of rational thought as men.
- D. None of these answers is correct.

13. Which of the following is supposed to be demonstrated by the Taoist analogy between the relationship between ice and water and the relationship between reason and emotion?
- A. Just as ice and water are distinct things, reason and emotion are completely distinct.
 - B. Just as ice and water are not quite identical and not quite distinct, reason and emotion are two aspects of the same thing and yet they differ in some ways.
 - C. Just as ice and water are really the same thing, reason and emotion are two aspects of one thing and so they do not differ at all from each other.
 - D. All of these answers are correct.
14. Dostoyevsky's depiction of Raskolnikov in *Crime and Punishment* demonstrates which of the following?
- A. Emotion can play a crucial role in critical thought.
 - B. Emotion has no role to play in critical thought.
 - C. Emotion always plays a crucial role in critical thought.
 - D. Goods should be redistributed from those that do not need them to those that do need them.
15. One criticism of critical rationalism is that not all people have direct knowledge of God. Which of the following is a response critical rationalists have offered to this criticism?
- A. Revelation must be available to all in order to for it to be a source of knowledge.
 - B. Beliefs held as a matter of faith need not be consistent with reason.
 - C. There is not sufficient evidence for a belief in God that is independent of faith.
 - D. None of these answers are responses critical rationalists have offered to the criticism.

16. Which of the following is true about our ability to reason?

- A. Individuals tend to reason well regardless of context.
- B. Individuals tend to reason poorly regardless of context.
- C. Formal training in reasoning makes no difference in one's ability to reason in unfamiliar contexts.
- D. Individuals tend to reason better in familiar contexts.

17. Which of the following best defines "emotional intelligence"?

- A. the ability to ignore the influence of emotions when reasoning
- B. the ability to accurately perceive, appraise, and express emotions
- C. the ability to use the fear and self-interest of others to make them believe what you would like them to believe
- D. None of these answers is correct.

18. Which of the following is true?

- A. If women are more emotional than men, then it follows they are less capable of reasoning.
- B. Traditional Western conceptions of women paint them as less capable of reasoning than men.
- C. Almost all Western conceptions of reason make room for the appropriate use of emotion in reasoning.
- D. All of these answers are correct.

19. Author Richard Dawkins points to which of the following figures as being responsible for the virtual destruction of the argument from design?

- A. Charles Darwin
- B. Sigmund Freud
- C. Thomas Aquinas
- D. Socrates

20. Which of the following is NOT one of the five "proofs" of God asserted by Thomas Aquinas?

- A. the unmoved mover
- B. the cosmological argument
- C. the big bang
- D. the argument from design

21. Critical thought requires that you ignore your emotions.

True False

22. Plato taught that we are at our best when the nonrational parts of our soul are subordinated to the rational part of our soul.

True False

23. Science can prove that the world exists.

True False

24. Traditional Western thought holds that women and men are essentially the same as far as the ability to reason goes.

True False

25. All reasoning is a conscious activity.

True False

26. Confucianism places particular importance on ridding yourself of emotions and relationships.

True False

27. Emotions can sometimes be a barrier to critical thought.

True False

28. Currently existing computers are in some ways superior to the human brain when it comes to working with data.

True False

29. No scientists believe that computers can be conscious.

True False

30. Faith is more than mere belief in the existence of God.

True False

31. Rationalism requires that we reject the existence of God.

True False

32. Reason is the process of coming to conclusions based on feelings and self-interest.

True False

33. Aristotle held that women and men are essentially the same.

True False

34. No one in the twenty-first century believes that women should be confined to the home.

True False

35. Former Vice President Al Gore holds that sensationalized depictions of violence in the media have lead to a greater tolerance for injustice.

True False

36. Empathy has no role to play in critical thought.

True False

37. According to the educator Nel Noddings, critical thought should not only be limited to reason, but should also involve empathy and caring for others.

True False

38. According to Herbert Simon, computers are able to feel emotions.

True False

39. Critical rationalists interpret the story of Abraham and Isaac as a test only of Abraham's faith in God.

True False

Chapter 2 Key

1. Which of the following is a strategy that falls under the heading of reason?

A. deduction

B. spatial-temporal reasoning

C. generalization

D. imagination

E. All of these are strategies that fall under the heading of reason.

Each of these is a strategy employed by critical thinkers. But no one strategy will suit every situation.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #1

2. Which of the following is true of the relationship between gender/racial stereotypes and critical thinking?
- A. Traditional gender and racial stereotypes show that some people are simply not as capable of critical thought as others.
 - B. Such stereotypes are barriers to critical thought, since they prevent you from considering other points of view.
 - C. Gender stereotypes show that women are too emotional for critical thought.
 - D. Gender stereotypes show that only men should be allowed in public office, where the use of reason is most important.

Critical thought requires that you consider all the available evidence. Stereotypes can prevent you from considering how things may appear to others, which can often prevent you from appreciating new and relevant evidence.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #2

3. Which of the following is a way that emotion can help us reason better?
- A. Emotion can help us notice problems.
 - B. Emotion can move us to resolve problems.
 - C. Emotion can help us to consider problems from the perspective of others.
 - D. All of these answers are correct.

All of these are ways that emotion can aid in reasoning. In order to think critically, we must notice problems, be moved to resolve them, and consider all the available evidence. Emotion can help us with each of these.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #3

4. Which of the following is a description of the Turing test?
- A. A computer scientist tests how many computations a computer can perform per second to determine whether or not the computer is intelligent.
 - B. A computer is given a series of questions and, if it answers enough of them correctly, it is intelligent.
 - C. A human being has two conversations through a computer screen. One conversation is with another human. One conversation is with a computer. If the human is unable to consistently tell which conversation is with the computer, then the computer is intelligent.
 - D. A computer is asked to perform a series of mathematical calculations. If it can do so without complaining, then it is intelligent.

The idea behind the Turing test is that if a computer is able to act as a human being acts to such a degree that even actual humans cannot tell that it is a computer, then the computer should be considered intelligent.

5. Which of the following is a problem with fideism?

- A. Fideism allows that we can improve or revise our religious beliefs on the basis of reason.
- B. Fideism gives us no way of knowing which religious beliefs we should hold as a matter of faith.
- C. Believing something, in itself, shows that it is correct.
- D. Fideism requires that you only believe religious claims when there is evidence supporting those claims.

Fideism claims that religious beliefs can appropriately be held without evidence or perhaps even in the face of contrary evidence. As such it suffers from all the problems of not allowing us to revise religious beliefs based on evidence, providing no way to know which religious beliefs should be held on faith and that mere belief (even when based on faith) does not entail truth.

6. Critical rationalists maintain which of the following?

- A. All religious beliefs must be supported by evidence.
- B. Religious beliefs can be held in the face of contrary evidence.
- C. Religious beliefs can be based on faith, while remaining consistent with the evidence.
- D. Religious beliefs should never be held, because there is no possible evidence that can support the existence of God.

The critical rationalist makes room for faith. Some religious beliefs, according to the critical rationalist, are self-evident. That is, they can be accepted as matter of faith since they are direct revelations of God. However, according to the critical rationalist, even these beliefs must be consistent with the available evidence.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #6

7. Which of the following is a component of reason?

- A. sets of premises that provide support for conclusions
- B. appeals to self-interest
- C. appeals to fear
- D. None of these answers is correct.

Playing on a person's fear and appealing to a person's self interest are not rational methods of persuasion. They are not a component of reason. Making an argument, however, is a way of using reason. Premises are claims that are used to provide rational support for a conclusion. Using premises in this way is making an argument. Note, however, that arguments are not the only component of reason. Reason also allows for emotional discernment and imaginative thinking.

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8. Which of the following is true, according to evolutionary theory?

- A. Only human beings are capable of thought.
- B. Human beings are part of a divinely instituted order among beings. Humans are above animals, but below angels and God.
- C. Reason is an adaptation of humans and other animals that promotes survival.
- D. All animals are capable of using reason.

According to evolutionary theory, human beings are one animal among many. They are not the only type of animal capable of using reason. Rather, this ability is an adaptation that many (but not all) animals possess to varying degrees that promotes the survival of their species.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #8

9. Which of the following is true of dreams?

- A. Dreams are capable of helping us solve our problems.
- B. Dreams are completely understood by science.
- C. Dreams have never been a source of important ideas.
- D. Dreams are merely the release of irrational impulses and emotions.

Studies have shown that dreams are not merely the release of irrational impulses and emotions. Areas of the brain involved in rational problem-solving are often quite active during dreams, and many people have had dreams that present solutions to difficult problems and have provided important new ideas. Elias Howe, the inventor of the sewing machine, completed his designs using ideas he had during dreams.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #9

10. Gender stereotypes can be harmful for which of the following reasons?

- A. They reveal that women are as incapable of reasoning as men.
- B.** They harm men that wish to pursue traditionally female careers.
- C. They may prevent women from taking on roles that require caring for others.
- D. All of these answers are correct.

Gender stereotypes harm women by limiting their ability to seek out social roles that the stereotypes claim men are better suited for, but they also do the same to men. A man that wishes to take on a job that involves caring for others (such as elementary school teacher or nurse) may find it difficult to find such a job due to gender stereotypes that claim women are better suited for such positions.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #10

11. Which of the following allowed Temple Grandin to design more humane means of slaughtering cattle?

- A. She treated the cattle as incapable of reason and purely driven by instinct.
- B. She kept a dream journal.
- C. She used imagination and spatial-temporal reasoning.
- D. She relied purely on rational argumentation.

Grandin imagined herself as a cow, and was thereby able to see problems that might arise in the design of livestock handling facilities. To do so, she had to use more than rational argumentation; she also had to rely on spatial-temporal reasoning to envision the facilities, and her imagination to understand how the cattle would react to such facilities. She used reason, but she did not limit herself to only the argumentative component of reasoning.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #11

12. Liberal feminists hold which of the following positions?

- A. Gender differences are solely the result of biological ingrained dispositions.
- B. Gender differences are mostly the result of differences in socialization.
- C. Women are not as capable of rational thought as men.
- D. None of these answers is correct.

Liberal feminists such as John Stuart Mill and Gloria Steinem have held that differences between the sexes are largely the result of the different ways that society has treated men and women, rather than of any innate differences between the sexes. Recent research indicates that gender differences are the result of the interplay between innate differences and differences in socialization.

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13. Which of the following is supposed to be demonstrated by the Taoist analogy between the relationship between ice and water and the relationship between reason and emotion?
- A. Just as ice and water are distinct things, reason and emotion are completely distinct.
 - B. Just as ice and water are not quite identical and not quite distinct, reason and emotion are two aspects of the same thing and yet they differ in some ways.
 - C. Just as ice and water are really the same thing, reason and emotion are two aspects of one thing and so they do not differ at all from each other.
 - D. All of these answers are correct.

The analogy is supposed to demonstrate that reason and emotion are both identical and yet must be treated differently. Ice and water are both different forms of the same underlying phenomenon, but must be treated differently. Emotion and reason can both be used to discern facts, but each operates, according to the Taoist, with a different logic.

14. Dostoyevsky's depiction of Raskolnikov in *Crime and Punishment* demonstrates which of the following?

- A. Emotion can play a crucial role in critical thought.
- B. Emotion has no role to play in critical thought.
- C. Emotion always plays a crucial role in critical thought.
- D. Goods should be redistributed from those that do not need them to those that do need them.

Raskolnikov decides to kill a helpless old woman so that he might give her belongings to those that can make better use of them. Dostoyevsky is pointing out that even the most rationally compelling arguments can lead to very bad results if they are not supplemented by the appropriate sorts of emotions. In this case, Raskolnikov's lack of empathy with his victim allows him to perform a monstrous deed. Emotion can play a crucial role in critical thought. Note, however, that not all emotions are appropriate. Fear of others, for instance, can lead to an inability to perceive important facts due to an unwillingness to consider others' perspectives.

15. One criticism of critical rationalism is that not all people have direct knowledge of God. Which of the following is a response critical rationalists have offered to this criticism?
- A. Revelation must be available to all in order to for it to be a source of knowledge.
 - B. Beliefs held as a matter of faith need not be consistent with reason.
 - C. There is not sufficient evidence for a belief in God that is independent of faith.
 - D. None of these answers are responses critical rationalists have offered to the criticism.

The critical rationalist maintains that faith must be consistent with reason. Revealed beliefs, in their view, cannot be held when inconsistent with evidence. To the criticism that not everyone is capable of knowledge through revelation, critical rationalists have claimed that revelation need not be available to all to be a source of knowledge, just as sight can give us knowledge even though some people are blind. They have also responded by claiming that reason alone can provide some religious knowledge.

16. Which of the following is true about our ability to reason?

- A. Individuals tend to reason well regardless of context.
- B. Individuals tend to reason poorly regardless of context.
- C. Formal training in reasoning makes no difference in one's ability to reason in unfamiliar contexts.
- D. Individuals tend to reason better in familiar contexts.

When presented with two formally identical problems, people with no formal logical training will tend to reason better when the problem is presented in a familiar context than an unfamiliar context. When presented with a logical problem about cards with letters and numbers on each side, people tend to reason poorly. When presented with a formally identical problem about drinking age laws, people will tend to perform significantly better. People tend to reason better in familiar contexts.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #16

17. Which of the following best defines "emotional intelligence"?

- A. the ability to ignore the influence of emotions when reasoning
- B. the ability to accurately perceive, appraise, and express emotions
- C. the ability to use the fear and self-interest of others to make them believe what you would like them to believe
- D. None of these answers is correct.

Emotional intelligence is the ability to use emotions appropriately. This requires being able both to appraise emotions as appropriate and to express those emotions when they are appropriate. Emotion is an important component of reasoning, but must be used in proper ways. That is to say, reasoning requires emotional intelligence.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #17

18. Which of the following is true?

- A. If women are more emotional than men, then it follows they are less capable of reasoning.
- B. Traditional Western conceptions of women paint them as less capable of reasoning than men.
- C. Almost all Western conceptions of reason make room for the appropriate use of emotion in reasoning.
- D. All of these answers are correct.

Traditional Western conceptions of women depict them as more emotional and, as a result, less rational than men. But even if it is true that women tend to be more emotional than men, it does not follow that they are less reasonable, since emotion can play an essential role in good reasoning. Many non-Western traditions such as Taoism and Confucianism make room for emotion in reasoning, while many Western views do not.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #18

19. Author Richard Dawkins points to which of the following figures as being responsible for the virtual destruction of the argument from design?

- A. Charles Darwin
- B. Sigmund Freud
- C. Thomas Aquinas
- D. Socrates

"The argument from design is the only one still in regular use today, and it still sounds to many like the ultimate knockdown argument...There has probably never been a more devastating rout of popular belief by clever reasoning than Charles Darwin's destruction of the argument from design. It was so unexpected. Thanks to Darwin, it is no longer true to say that nothing that we know looks designed unless it is designed. Evolution by natural selection produces an excellent simulacrum of design, mounting prodigious heights of complexity and elegance..." (*The God Delusion*, 2006).

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Boss - Chapter 02 #19

20. Which of the following is NOT one of the five "proofs" of God asserted by Thomas Aquinas?

- A. the unmoved mover
- B. the cosmological argument
- C. the big bang
- D. the argument from design

The "big bang" theory is a scientific theory about the development and expansion of the universe.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #20

21. Critical thought requires that you ignore your emotions.

FALSE

Emotional discernment can play an essential role in critical thought.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #21

22. Plato taught that we are at our best when the nonrational parts of our soul are subordinated to the rational part of our soul.

TRUE

Plato believed that the soul divides into three components—one rational and two nonrational. According to him, the best kind of life is one in which emotions and desires are kept in check by reason.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #22

23. Science can prove that the world exists.

FALSE

That the world exists is an assumption made by science, but it cannot be proven by science. Note, though, that it is still reasonable to believe that the world exists, since this belief is the foundation of our other beliefs.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #23

24. Traditional Western thought holds that women and men are essentially the same as far as the ability to reason goes.

FALSE

Most thinkers in the Western tradition have held that women are generally not as capable of rational thought as men. Women, in this view, tend to be guided more by emotion, which these thinkers considered the opposite of reason.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #24

25. All reasoning is a conscious activity.

FALSE

Research has shown that your brain continues to function and can solve problems while you sleep. This is particularly true of problems you have carefully contemplated while awake.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #25

26. Confucianism places particular importance on ridding yourself of emotions and relationships.

FALSE

Confucianism teaches that a good life requires refining emotions and maintaining relationships with others.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #26

27. Emotions can sometimes be a barrier to critical thought.

TRUE

While emotions can enhance critical thought, they can also be a barrier to it. Appeals to emotion may sway us to believe unreasonable things or ignore important evidence. Fear of those not like us, for example, may prevent us from considering the perspectives of others.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #27

28. Currently existing computers are in some ways superior to the human brain when it comes to working with data.

TRUE

While computers are not currently able to reason in all the ways that humans do, they are able to perform complex calculations many times faster than human beings and are also able to work with much larger sets of data while doing so.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #28

29. No scientists believe that computers can be conscious.

FALSE

Many scientists believe that consciousness is a product of the brain. As such, it may be possible in a medium other than the brain (e.g., computers) if that medium is properly constructed.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #29

30. Faith is more than mere belief in the existence of God.

TRUE

Faith is more than belief in God. It also requires that belief be based on trust and obedience to God. You might believe in God simply because you think that reason requires it. In such a case, the belief would be based on reason, not faith.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #30

31. Rationalism requires that we reject the existence of God.

FALSE

Rationalism claims that all beliefs should be based on reason and evidence. Some rationalists maintain there is sufficient evidence to warrant belief in the existence of God. Some rationalists maintain there is not enough evidence to warrant belief or disbelief in the existence of God and so remain agnostic on whether or not God exists.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #31

32. Reason is the process of coming to conclusions based on feelings and self-interest.

FALSE

Reason is a process of drawing conclusions based on evidence and argument. A belief that is held in accordance with reason is supported by evidence and is not merely held because it is useful or comforting.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #32

33. Aristotle held that women and men are essentially the same.

FALSE

Aristotle believed that men are more rational and less emotion-governed than women, and so he held that men are more suited to public office and the workforce, while women are more suited to household management and raising families.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #33

34. No one in the twenty-first century believes that women should be confined to the home.

FALSE

In 2001 a survey of college freshmen, the *Freshman Survey*, found that 28.5 percent of men and 15.9 percent of women agreed to the following claim: "The activities of married women are best confined to the home and family."

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Boss - Chapter 02 #34

35. Former Vice President Al Gore holds that sensationalized depictions of violence in the media have lead to a greater tolerance for injustice.

TRUE

Gore holds that our moral sensibilities have been dulled by the proliferation of violence on television. As a result, we have become more tolerant of immoral acts such as the use of torture by the government or the slow response of the government to Hurricane Katrina.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #35

36. Empathy has no role to play in critical thought.

FALSE

Empathy, the ability to understand the experiences and feelings of others, can play a crucial role in critical thought by allowing us to see things from the point of view of others and so motivate us to think more critically about our own beliefs.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #36

37. According to the educator Nel Noddings, critical thought should not only be limited to reason, but should also involve empathy and caring for others.

TRUE

Noddings maintains that argument and logic are not enough to be a fully developed critical thinker. You must also be able to see matters from the point of view of others and to thereby make better choices when our decisions affect others.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #37

38. According to Herbert Simon, computers are able to feel emotions.

TRUE

Simon maintains that no sharp distinction can be found between thought and feeling. Emotion, he held, is best thought of as a disposition to achieve specific goals. And many computers already have such dispositions.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #38

39. Critical rationalists interpret the story of Abraham and Isaac as a test only of Abraham's faith in God.

FALSE

Critical rationalists hold that while faith can give us direct knowledge of God, even beliefs arrived at as a matter of faith must be compatible with reason. In particular, such beliefs must be consistent with fundamental moral principles. The story of Abraham and Isaac can then be understood not only as a test of Abraham's faith in God, but also of the goodness of God.

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Boss - Chapter 02 #39

Chapter 2 Summary

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