

iCritical Thinking[™] powered by ETS FAQ

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Why are Certiport and Educational Testing Service (ETS) joining forces to offer *iCritical Thinking Certification powered by ETS*?

Today's students and workers are part of a technology-dependent generation. And while many might be technology-savvy, they often do not think critically and effectively to solve problems while using technology, a skill set identified as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy.

As the acknowledged leaders in educational assessment and ICT certification, ETS and Certiport are joining forces to address a growing need for education administrators and teachers, workforce development program managers, and human resource managers to evaluate individual and group critical thinking skills in a technology-enabled education or work environment. The resulting solution, *iCritical Thinking Certification powered by ETS*, creatively meets this need.

iCritical Thinking Certification may be taken as a stand-alone certification exam. It also serves as a "capstone" credential to other digital literacy, desktop computing, or publishing programs, such as Certiport's *Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³)*, *Microsoft® Certified Application Specialist*, and *Adobe® Certified Associate*.

What is *iCritical Thinking Certification powered by ETS*?

Brought to you by the acknowledged leaders in educational assessment and ICT certification, ETS and Certiport, *iCritical Thinking Certification* is the only ICT literacy program to certify critical thinking skills in a technological environment. *iCritical Thinking Certification* features real-time, simulated, scenario-based testing delivered through a network of authorized Certiport Centers.

iCritical Thinking Certification also offers individual certification and credential verification, and individual, group, and institutional reporting based on a globally defined ICT / digital literacy framework. And when paired with proven digital literacy and desktop computing and publishing programs such as the *Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®)*, *Microsoft® Certified Application Specialist*, and *Adobe® Certified Associate*, *iCritical Thinking Certification* becomes part of a 21st-Century, work-readiness solution tailored to your specific needs.

Which skills or concepts does the *iCritical Thinking Certification* program cover?

iCritical Thinking Certification utilizes real-world scenarios to measure the ability to navigate, critically evaluate, and make sense of the wealth of information available through digital technology. These scenarios are set in workplace, academic, and popular contexts. The exam covers the seven ICT literacy content areas consistent with the globally-defined ICT / digital literacy framework including the ability to: define, access, evaluate, manage, integrate, create and communicate.

For which age groups and populations is *iCritical Thinking Certification* appropriate?

Because the test includes tasks at a wide range of difficulty levels, the exam is suitable for students from high school (grades 10 – 12) through college, as well as for working adults. The exam can be successfully deployed in academic, government, workforce development, and business environments.

What is the value of *iCritical Thinking Certification*?

iCritical Thinking Certification communicates an individual's ability to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills in a digital environment. Combined with IC³ Certification, *iCritical Thinking Certification* demonstrates mastery of digital literacy and critical thinking skills, and that the incumbent group or individual can successfully integrate and apply those skills when tasked with performing in real-world, technology-dependent education and workplace situations.

Finally, when paired with desktop computing and publishing programs such as *Microsoft Certified Application Specialist* and *Adobe Certified Associate*, *iCritical Thinking Certification* can demonstrate critical thinking and computing competencies tailored to specific needs.

What does it mean to pass the *iCritical Thinking Certification* exam and obtain the *iCritical Thinking Certification*?

Test takers receiving a passing score on the *iCritical Thinking Certification* exam receive a valuable certification and have immediate access to a score report documenting that the test taker has demonstrated critical thinking skills valued in today's academic and professional environments. Printable certificates will be available at www.certipoint.com within 24 hours of the passed exam, and a hard copy certificate will be mailed to the candidate within 10 days. A Certipoint certification enhances an individual's marketability and adds value and credibility to any résumé.

And when the *iCritical Thinking Certification* is taken with digital literacy and desktop computing and publishing programs, such as the *Internet and Computing Core Certification* (IC³), *Microsoft® Certified Application Specialist*, and *Adobe® Certified Associate*, test takers receive additional certification credentials that effectively demonstrate their ICT literacy and computing competencies.

How do test takers “prove” they hold *iCritical Thinking Certification* credentials for admissions officers and prospective employers?

Using a secure code provided by the certificate holder, the certification credential verifying the student's success may be viewed and verified by any employer or authority with the student's permission to access Certipoint's secure, Web-based environment.

How long does the *iCritical Thinking Certification* exam take to complete?

The exam takes about one hour to complete.

How will post-secondary education (higher education) institutions use *iCritical Thinking Certification* to assess ICT literacy?

iCritical Thinking Certification is designed to assess and demonstrate individual cognitive skills in a technology-enabled education or work environment. Here are a few ways in which *iCritical Thinking Certification* can be utilized in post-secondary or higher education environments:

- Pre-Service teacher and administrator programs
- Student assessment, student placement, and curriculum development
- Student preparation for academic advancement and employment

How can secondary education institutions use *iCritical Thinking Certification* to assess ICT literacy?

iCritical Thinking Certification is designed to assess and demonstrate individual cognitive skills in a technology-enabled education or work environment. Here are a few ways in which *iCritical Thinking Certification* can be used in secondary education environments:

- In-Service and Pre-Service teacher professional development programs
- Student assessment, student placement, and curriculum development (grades 10 – 12)
- Student preparation for academic advancement and employment (grades 10 – 12)

How can government and NGO workforce development programs use *iCritical Thinking Certification* to assess ICT literacy?

iCritical Thinking Certification is designed to assess individual critical thinking skills in a technology-enabled education or work environment. Here are a few ways in which *iCritical Thinking Certification* can be used by government and NGO workforce development organizations:

- Youth activities and summer programs
- Displaced worker initiatives
- Workforce re-entry programs
- Statewide and local social responsibility and grant initiatives

How will businesses use *iCritical Thinking Certification* to assess ICT literacy?

iCritical Thinking Certification is designed to assess and demonstrate individual cognitive skills in a technology-enabled education or work environment. Here are a few ways in which *iCritical Thinking Certification* can be used in business organizations:

- Prospective employee evaluation and recruitment
- Employee training and retention
- Employee assessment and promotion

Can *iCritical Thinking Certification* be used for both institutional assessment and individual certification purposes?

Yes, *iCritical Thinking Certification* can be used by both an organization and institution to assess the skill level of a population, and an individual to obtain a marketable certification credential. Aggregate reports provide data that can be used for accreditation and accountability as well as curriculum improvement. The desire to obtain a marketable credential and to possibly achieve IC³ certification (when taken with the IC³ exams) should prove a welcome incentive for candidates to take and pass the exam.

How can *iCritical Thinking Certification* be administered to distance education students or remote candidates?

Distance learning students or remote exam candidates can arrange to sit for the *iCritical Thinking Certification* exam in a center convenient to their location. The Certiport testing center network is the ideal solution for institutions serving large distance education or distributed exam candidate populations.

Can *iCritical Thinking Certification* be administered around the world?

Although the network of Certiport testing centers will someday allow for the first international administrations of the *iCritical Thinking Certification* exam, the first scheduled versions of the exam are designed for English language populations only and may be administered in countries where English is the national language or where English-language proficiency levels are adequate. The new testing platform is being designed with a view toward rapid localization of the exam.