

# Think Smarter

## Problem Solving & Critical Thinking

Problem-solving and critical thinking skills play essential roles in professional success. In today's professional landscape, new challenges, unexpected changes, and complex decisions are a regular part of working life. Being able to assess situations, analyse information, and identify the most effective course of action is therefore a valuable skill for any professional.

For those balancing work alongside ongoing development, these skills are especially important. Strengthening your ability to think critically can help you approach challenges with greater confidence, make informed decisions, and work more effectively in your role.

This month, we're sharing practical insights to help you develop these skills. Our latest guide explores useful techniques for analysing problems, weighing up different options, and using structured thinking to work through challenges – helping you build a clearer and more confident approach to problem-solving in both your work and professional development.

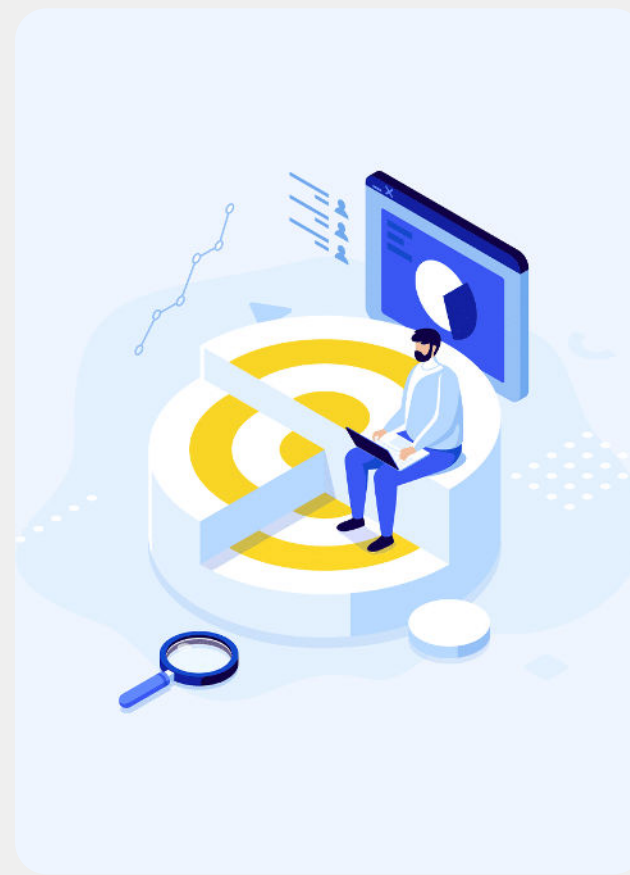
[Your Problem-Solving Toolkit →](#)



### EMPLOYER INSIGHTS

## The Benefits of a Problem-Solving Culture

A strong problem-solving culture encourages employees to think independently, analyse situations carefully, and share ideas with confidence. When people feel supported to explore solutions instead of just escalating issues, organisations see better decision-making, more innovation, and teams that are stronger and more adaptable in the face of change.



### EMPLOYER TIP

## Creating a Problem-Solving Environment

Encourage your team to approach challenges with curiosity rather than urgency. Giving them the time and space to analyse problems, ask questions, and explore possible solutions often leads to better outcomes. Open discussion and reflection also help build critical thinking skills and boost confidence. Managers can guide this process by asking questions instead of giving immediate answers. When employees explain their thinking, weigh alternatives, and reflect on outcomes, they strengthen their analytical skills. This helps your organisation to develop a culture where thoughtful problem-solving is valued and developed.



### INSTITUTE UPDATES



## IoSCM International

IoSCM has officially launched IoSCM International, providing global access to its industry-leading qualifications and enabling professionals worldwide to benefit from its expertise and accredited training programmes.



## ILM Enrollment

ILM price increases have been announced for September. If you're planning on enrolling yourself or a team member onto an ILM qualification, speak to us about securing the current rate.



## CIPS Exam Deadlines

CIPS March exam results will be released soon, with Objective Response (OR) results due on **Friday 3 April**, followed by Constructed Response (CR) results, which will be published on **Friday 1 May**. The May exam booking window is now open, with exams taking place 11th – 20th May. Our booking deadline is **Friday 10th April**. Be sure to get in touch as soon as possible to book your exam.

### STUDY TIP OF THE MONTH

## Take a Step Back

When you're working through a problem or studying a tricky topic, it's easy to get caught up in the details and lose sight of the bigger picture. If you feel stuck, try stepping back and asking yourself what the main goal is, what you already know, and what might still be missing. Looking at the situation from a slightly different angle can often reveal connections or ideas you hadn't noticed before.

Another helpful technique is to explain the information out loud, either to yourself or to someone else. Putting concepts into your own words helps organise your thinking and often highlights gaps in understanding, making it easier to approach the problem with clarity and confidence.

### LEARNER SUPPORT

## Need study support?

Remember that the Student Support Zone is filled with information, guides and resources to help you throughout your learning journey

[Student Support Zone →](#)