Evaluation report regarding the use of DLG (gifted programme) 2011-2012
(Liberal Studies)

1. Introduction
In the study of Liberal Studies, students need to acquire a relatively comprehensive understanding of the issues, master related facts, analyse the core of the questions, give balanced consideration to different views and make reasoned judgment. Two workshops with five sessions on critical thinking were organised to enhance the skills of evaluation, synthesis and application in LS writing. One workshop was for Form 5 students and one for Form 6 students. Students were equipped with a set of questions to help them evaluate systematically what they hear and read. They also learned to assess the completeness of any reasoning from different perspectives and to verify the quality of a conclusion.

Students who had demonstrated outstanding performance in their analytical thinking were chosen by their LS teachers to attend the workshop.

2. Evaluation methods, data collection and analysis on student learning
Towards the end of the workshop, students were asked to write an essay on a given topic applying the strategies acquired in the workshop. The instructor of the workshop then worked with the girls together to evaluate the work of different participants using the acquired strategies.

Students found that they are now more confident and better able to think critically. Teachers have made similar observations on these students’ assignments. A survey carried out at the end of the workshop shows that students were very satisfied with the outcome and would not hesitate to recommend the workshop to others.

3. Key findings and recommendations
The workshop provided the opportunity for the individual development of the many varied learning skills including creative thinking. Further enrichment opportunities could be provided for students to put into practice the cognitive, socio-emotional skills, concepts, and attitudes necessary for life-long learning, a goal that extends across different curricular.

4. Conclusion
As these workshops have been successful in enhancing students’ critical thinking, a similar workshop on thinking skills is arranged for F.5 students in the coming year.