Contents

Acknowledgements		IX
Introduction		1
1	Analysing reasoning	5
	Recognising reasoning and identifying conclusions	5
	Summary: Is it an argument?	12
	Exercise 1: Identifying arguments and conclusions	13
	Identifying reasons	14
	Exercise 2: Offering reasons for conclusions	19
	Exercise 3: Identifying reasons	19
	Exercise 4: Identifying parts of an argument	22
	Exercise 5: Thinking about assumptions	24
	Identifying assumptions	25
	Exercise 6: Identifying someone else's assumptions	34
	Exercise 7: Identifying assumptions in arguments	35
	Exercise 8: Re-working Exercise 5	37
2	Evaluating reasoning	39
	Parts of an argument	39
	Evaluating the truth of reasons and assumptions	41
	Summary: Reliability of evidence/authorities	43
	Evaluating support for conclusions	44
	Example 1: Violence on television	49

CONTENTS

	Example 2: Affluence and health	50
	Example 3: Affluence and health - a connection	52
	Example 4: Exhaustion of mineral resources	53
	Exercise 9: Identifying flaws	58
	Evaluating further evidence	60
	Exercise 10: Evaluating further evidence	61
	Questioning explanations	65
	Exercise 11: Offering alternative explanations	68
	Exercise 12: Identifying and evaluating explanations	68
	Summarising the skills of evaluation	72
	Exercise 13: Practising the skills	73
3	Recognising implications	77
	Drawing conclusions	77
	Exercise 14: Drawing conclusions	79
	Exercise 15: Assessing implications	80
	Recognising implications of arguments	82
	Exercise 16: Identifying parallel arguments	84
	Exercise 17: Applying and evaluating principles	88
4	Two skills in the use of language	89
	Using language with clarity and precision	89
	Exercise 18: Clarifying words or phrases	91
	Summarising arguments	93
	Example 1: Nicotine for smokers	94
	Example 2: Subsidising the arts	95
	Exercise 19: Writing a summary	97
5	Exercising the skills of reasoning	101
	Longer passages of reasoning	101
	Two examples of evaluation of reasoning	104
	Example 1: Science versus theology	104
	Example 2: Five reasons for a life of less crime	108
	Summary: Assessing an argument	117
	Exercise 20: Ten longer passages to evaluate	118
	Exercise 21: Topics for constructing your own arguments	139
An	swers to exercises	141
	Exercise 1: Identifying arguments and conclusions	141
	Exercise 3: Identifying reasons	143
	Exercise 4: Identifying parts of an argument	146
	Exercise 7: Identifying assumptions in arguments	152

CONTENTS

Exercise 8: Re-working Exercise 5	156
Exercise 9: Identifying flaws	159
Exercise 10: Evaluating further evidence	162
Exercise 11: Offering alternative explanations	166
Exercise 12: Identifying and evaluating explanations	167
Exercise 13: Practising the skills	169
Exercise 14: Drawing conclusions	177
Exercise 15: Assessing implications	177
Exercise 16: Identifying parallel arguments	180
Exercise 17: Applying and evaluating principles	182
Exercise 18: Clarifying words or phrases	183
Exercise 19: Writing a summary	184
Exercise 20: Ten longer passages to evaluate	186
Bibliography and further reading	
Index	207