**Personality Traits That Hamper Clear Thinking**

Clear thinking is the ability to express ideas in a simple and straightforward manner. It also involves the ability to analyse statements and follow logical arguments. Clear thinking means that you have the ability to:

* express your own ideas simply
* produce valid arguments
* think in a logical manner
* inspect and analyse ideas critically

You can develop the skills required by breaking down what you say and write into small and simple units. Simplicity usually leads to greater clarity. You also need to analyse arguments and recognise their underlying logic.

Clear thinking requires –

* mental effort and discipline
* analysing, reasoning, and understanding
* recognising logical arguments
* patience and diligence

However there are various personality traits that affect clear thinking, although doesn’t necessarily hamper clear thinking. The five primary personality traits are :

* **Neuroticism: it** is a measure of affect and emotional control. Low levels of neuroticism indicate emotional stability whereas high levels of neuroticism increase the likelihood of experiencing negative emotions.
* The **extraversion-introversion** dimension contrasts an outgoing character with a withdrawn nature. Extraverts tend to be more physically and verbally active whereas introverts are independent, reserved, steady and like being alone. The person in the middle of the dimension likes a mix between social situations and solitude
* **Openness to experience** is a measure of depth, breadth and variability in a person's imagination and urge for experiences. The factor relates to intellect, openness to new ideas, cultural interests, educational aptitude and creativity as well as an interest in varied sensory and cognitive experiences.
* The **agreeableness** scale is linked to altruism, nurturance, caring and emotional support versus competitiveness, hostility, indifference, self-centeredness, spitefulness and jealousy
* **Conscientiousness** is a measure of goal-directed behaviour and amount of control over impulses. Conscientiousness has been linked to educational achievement and particularly to the will to achieve. The focused person concentrates on a limited number of goals but strives hard to reach them, while the flexible person is more impulsive and easier to persuade from one task to another.

The idea is that an individual’s nature will have inferential consequences. For example, highly extravert people, having devoted a good deal of time to thinking about social situations, will have a tendency to consider a greater number of possibilities on reflecting about such situations; likewise, highly conscientious people will have accumulated experience in thinking about situations in which order and organization are relevant.