TARA question types and writing planner

Use this sheet alongside your timed practice for the January 2027 TARA sitting (4 to 8 January 2027). Booking closes at 6pm GMT on 21 December 2026.

Timing

Module	Questions	Time	Per question
Critical Thinking	22	40 minutes	About 1 min 49 s
Problem Solving	22	40 minutes	About 1 min 49 s
Writing Task	1 from 3	40 minutes	Up to 750 words

No calculator or dictionary. Wrong answers lose nothing, so answer every question.

Critical thinking: the routine

1. Find the conclusion. What does the writer want you to accept?
2. Find the reasons. Everything else is a reason, background or an example.
3. Look for the gap between the reasons and the conclusion.
4. For an assumption, turn the option into its opposite. If the argument falls apart, it's the assumption.

Question types to log: main conclusion, drawing a conclusion, assumption, extra evidence (strengthen or weaken), reasoning error (flaw), matching arguments, applying a principle.

Problem solving: the three types

- Relevant selection: pick out only the information you need.
- Finding procedures: find a method, then calculate. Check your answer.
- Identifying similarity: match a pattern, shape or rule.

First-pass target: about 1 minute 30 seconds. No method by then? Guess, note the number, move on.

Practice log

Date	Set (CT or PS)	Score out of 22	Types I got wrong

Writing task plan (5 to 8 minutes)

- Question chosen:
- Key word defined:
- My position:
- Point 1:
- Point 2:
- Point 3 (optional):
- Strongest counterargument:
- My reply:
- Conclusion in one sentence:

Writing: about 28 minutes. Checking: the last 4 minutes.