Topic vocabulary: Thinking

A Circle the correct word.

1 Don't be so **optimistic / pessimistic**. Everything's going to be fine, you'll see!
2 Most newspapers are usually **biased / prejudiced** towards a certain political outlook.
3 I'm slightly **dubious / cynical** about whether Sean's idea is going to work.
4 To suggest that it's possible to create a society without crime is a little **naïve / sceptical**, isn't it?
5 The only **ingenious / plausible** explanation I can think of is that Jenna got the dates wrong.
6 Please don't **baffle / discriminate** me with loads of technical terminology. Use plain, simple English!
7 It's not always easy to **assume / assess** someone's suitability for a job just by talking to them in a short interview.
8 How can the government **justify / speculate** spending so much on the armed forces?
9 Looking at the damage, I would **estimate / deduce** that the painting will cost at least €2,000 to restore properly.
10 I don't think you should **reflect / presume** that lots of people are going to help you with this project.

B Complete using the correct form of the words in the box. More than one word might fit in each gap, but try to use all the words.

concentrate • consider • contemplate • deliberate • gather • grasp • ponder • reckon • suppose

1 It took me quite a long time to ..... what the aim of the game was.
2 The jury are still ..... , but they're expected to reach a verdict soon.
3 I ..... from your tutor that you're thinking of changing course.
4 You really have to ..... very hard when you are doing calligraphy.
5 I'm seriously ..... asking for a pay rise tomorrow.
6 How long do you ..... it'll take to get to Manchester?
7 I don't ..... I could borrow your lecture notes this weekend, could I?
8 If you've ever ..... the question 'Why does the universe bother to exist?', then this is the book for you.
9 Let's not even ..... the possibility of failure.

C Each of the words in bold is in the wrong sentence. Write the correct words on the lines.

1 I'm in a real **hunch** because I've been invited to two parties on Saturday and I don't know which one to go to. .....
2 Dave said he's got complete **guesswork** in us, and thinks we're going to do a great job. .....
3 Sarah's a/an **intuition** when it comes to astrophysics, but she's not very practical in everyday things. .....
4 You often need to use a little educated **notion** when you're starting a cryptic crossword. .....
5 I've got a/an **ideology** that someone in this office is going to get promoted soon. .....
6 Communism and capitalism are very different types of **dilemma**. .....
7 Who gave you the **faith** for the main character in the book? .....
8 Detective Tacker had absolutely no evidence that Roddard was involved, but all his **paradox** told him that he was. .....
9 I've got a small **inspiration** about the exam syllabus. Should I talk to Mrs Jacobs about it? .....
10 Paying mothers a salary to raise their children is an interesting **genius**. .....
11 The fact that more people would come here if the place wasn't so crowded is a real **query**. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS