

## COMPETENCY-BASED APPROACH IN DEVELOPING TECHNICAL THINKING IN ECONOMICS LESSONS

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**Abstract:** This article comprehensively discusses the theoretical and practical foundations of the competency-based approach in developing technical thinking during economics lessons. The competency-based approach emphasizes not only the acquisition of knowledge but also its integration with skills and abilities, enabling students to apply them in practice, conduct independent research, and solve real-life problems effectively. Technical thinking refers to the ability to analyze economic processes logically, model them using mathematical methods, and develop optimal solutions through innovative approaches. The article examines the theoretical basis of technical thinking, the methods used in teaching economic sciences, the advantages of a competency-based approach, and the role of digital educational resources. Furthermore, it highlights advanced practices and methodological recommendations for fostering students' professional competencies within the educational process.

**Keywords:** technical thinking, economic education, competency-based approach, innovative methods, digital education, professional competence, practice.

### Introduction

The role of economic sciences in the modern educational process is steadily increasing, as in today's globalized world, economic knowledge and analytical thinking are essential competencies for every specialist. Technical thinking, in particular, plays a vital role in enabling students to understand economic processes and develop scientifically grounded approaches to solving them. Through technical thinking, students are able to model complex economic situations, compare alternative solutions, use resources efficiently, assess risks, and make effective decisions.

The competency-based approach establishes a new qualitative stage in economic education. Unlike traditional knowledge-based instruction, it focuses on the integration of knowledge, skills, and abilities, their application in practice, and adaptation to real-life contexts. Therefore, developing technical thinking within economics lessons through a competency-based approach is considered one of the most important conditions for enhancing the effectiveness of teaching.

### Main Part

The concept of technical thinking is interpreted differently in various scientific sources. Some scholars describe it as an advanced form of logical thinking, while others define it as the ability to find technological and economic solutions in problematic situations. Technical thinking combines elements of analytical reasoning, creative approaches, and critical evaluation, which together enable students to develop effective management decisions in their professional activities.

The competency-based approach, in turn, requires organizing the educational process in a student-centered manner. This approach develops not only professional knowledge but also general competencies such as communication, the use of information technologies, teamwork, and independent decision-making. The integration of technical thinking and a competency-based approach therefore ensures not only the effective acquisition of economic knowledge but also the student's ability to address real-world problems with scientifically sound solutions.

In economics lessons, the development of technical thinking requires the combination of traditional lectures and seminars with interactive teaching methods. For example, case studies provide opportunities for analyzing and solving problems drawn from real enterprise practices. Students acquire practical skills by developing business plans, analyzing financial statements, and comparing market strategies. Simulation programs allow them to model economic processes and test different scenarios for decision-making. Collaborative project work further enhances students' creativity, communication, and teamwork competencies.

When economics lessons are organized through a competency-based approach, students not only acquire knowledge but also learn to apply it in practice. For instance, students gain professional competencies by analyzing statistical data to develop forecasts, modeling business processes, assessing risks in enterprise activities, and designing strategies for financial sustainability. Such an approach bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical activity.

The following table illustrates the main directions of developing technical thinking in economics lessons through a competency-based approach:

Type of Competence	Manifestation in Economics Lessons	Expected Outcome
Analytical competence	Analysis of financial indicators, developing economic forecasts	Ability to conduct independent analysis and draw conclusions
Practical competence	Designing business plans, developing market strategies	Skill of making effective decisions in real-life situations
Digital competence	Use of statistical programs and simulation tools	Ability to model and analyze digital economic processes
Social competence	Participation in group work and project activities	Development of teamwork, leadership, and communication skills

In today's digital economy, digital learning resources and innovative technologies play a crucial role in developing students' technical thinking and competencies. Virtual laboratories, artificial intelligence-based analytical tools, online learning platforms, and interactive graphic software provide students with deeper insights into economic processes. For example, online simulation programs allow students to experiment with different economic scenarios and evaluate the outcomes of decisions. Big data technologies and digital analytical tools enable them to process large amounts of economic information and draw meaningful conclusions. This equips students not only for success in their educational journey but also for effective professional activity in their future careers.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the development of technical thinking during economics lessons becomes more effective when implemented through a competency-based approach. This approach fosters analytical, practical, digital, and social competencies, preparing students to operate effectively within real economic processes. The integration of theory and practice, the application of innovative technologies and digital learning resources, and the widespread use of interactive

methods strengthen students' technical thinking. Ultimately, this not only improves the quality of education but also contributes to the training of competitive, creative, and innovative specialists capable of meeting the demands of modern society and the economy.

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