**Problem Solving**

What does this actually mean?

* Analyse facts and circumstances to determine the cause of problems.
* Evaluate alternative possible solutions.
* Identify appropriate solutions.
* Implement a solution and assess its impact on the original problem.
* Seeing things that need changing or improving and acting on your observations to find solutions

You will develop these skills in many ways in all aspects of your life, for example:

**Academic related**

* Analysing information for essays/projects/dissertations in order to construct coherent arguments.
* Analysing different types of data, such as quantitative and qualitative, and scholarly material such as journal articles.
* Taking on a role as a class rep and resolving course related issues.

**Extra-curricular**

* Taking part in student forums, which provides the opportunity to solve problems of other organisations such as charities, small businesses or start-ups.
* Working with a struggling society to analyse problems and improve performance.
* Taking part in student competitions or business challenges.
* Duke of Edinburgh challenges.
* Help desk /support activities e.g. Maths Soc help desk for peers / IS help desk.

**Work experience**

* Noticing when a process or situation could be improved to complete work more efficiently and implementing a solution.
* Resolving problems within a team in the workplace.
* Prioritising a busy schedule to ensure work deadlines are met.
* Dealing with awkward or unhappy clients to find a mutually acceptable solution.
* Mentoring to help others overcome problems and succeed.

**Other**

* Solving personal issues, e.g. problems with a landlord, or managing your finances efficiently.
* Taking part in case study scenarios with employers.
* Organising the logistics of travelling, either independently or on behalf of a group.
* Taking steps to overcome language or cultural barriers when in a new environment.
* Anticipating problems and resolving them through planning e.g. project work, planning travel overseas.
* Resolving financial problems – personal, or fundraising for a club, raising money to fund an activity e.g. to participate in charity work overseas.
* Solving problems through negotiation or representation – acting as student rep; resolving problems over accommodation with landlord or flatmates; resolving disagreements in group work.
* Finding novel or innovative solutions to problems e.g. devising new methods of fundraising; new ideas for promoting an activity, or encouraging participation in an academic activity; ideas leading to greater efficiency in your workplace (paid or voluntary); novel ways of promoting yourself to find work placements.