

# Tips on essay writing

## Read the essay question carefully

- Highlight the keywords of the title.
- Use a dictionary to check unfamiliar words.
- Identify topic word e.g. a character's name.
- Identify limiting words e.g. chapter 2/3 only or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Do the relevant reading and research

- Write notes in your own words.
- Only pick information which is relevant to your essay.
- Write down quotes and authors.

## Brainstorm Ideas

- Jot down the relevant points.
- Jot down the relevant evidence.
- Use mind maps.

## Develop an Idea/argument

- Your essay should have a strong argument running through it – that answers the question.
- You need to prove that thought and research has been put into answering the question.
- The essence of your argument has to be stated in the introduction and has to be referred to throughout the essay. Again it has to be reinforced in the conclusion.

## Write a plan for your response

- Order your ideas in a logical way.
- Make sure all points are relevant to the questions.
- The plan should give directions to your essays.

## Write an introduction

- Introduce your essay.
- Open up the discussion; imply how you are going to angle/answer the question.
- Engage the reader.

## Main body

- Each point needs a new paragraph.

- Use phrases that link the last paragraph to the new paragraph. For example “however”, “moreover”.
- Start each paragraph with a sentence that links to the essay title. Use words or phrases from the title. Keep referring to the title.
- Provide supporting evidence for each point you make.

### **Conclusion**

- Summarise main ideas.
- Show how you have proven your argument in the essay.
- Finish with a relevant comment.

### **Edit and draft**

- Your spelling, punctuation and grammar needs to be correct.
- Remove any sections that are not relevant.
- Improve and choose better vocab.
- Ask someone to glance over your work giving constructive critics.

### **Write up final copy**

- Write quotes on a new line.
- Write your final version in a neat and tidy manner.
- Hand all assignments in on time.

### **Contact Details**

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