

A2 ESSAY GUIDANCE

1. Identify the directive – what is the question asking you to do?

Discuss...

Examine the view that...

To what extent..?

Why..?

How..?

Consider...

Evaluate...

How far do you agree..?

All of these questions are looking for you to establish a debate – if you don't do this you will not get the AO2 marks.

AO1 Knowledge and Understanding (/9)
AO2 Analysis and Application (/17)
AO3 Skills and Communication (/4)

2. Ensure that you plan - once you understand the expectation of the question you need to decide that to include. Spend 5 minutes doing a plan.

3. Write your essay using the format below. Spend 40 minutes writing your essay.

Introduction

Introduce the overall topic, define the key terms and set up the debate – this is a very important section but needs to be done concisely (no more than 10 lines).

Main body

Make a decision on how you are going to structure your answer – is it a yes/no debate, spatial differences, temporal difference, social/economic/environmental etc?

You need to ensure that your points are written in paragraphs (one point per paragraph) and they follow this pattern to ensure that you get the AO1 and AO2 marks.

1. **Make your point** e.g. Political corruption can prevent any hope of decreasing the ‘Development Gap.’
2. **Explain the point you are making** e.g. A corrupt government will take any money or services that it receives from foreign or domestic assets and not reinvest it correctly. This means that the potential for development is not being recognised as there is no financial or expertise stimulating the growth of jobs.....
3. **Exemplify the point** e.g. In Zimbabwe, it is argued that the corrupt government of Robert Mugabe has led a country that was once one of the most prosperous in Africa, to one that faces a long continued economic recession. Coupled with economic recession are high levels of poverty and a lack of services that many of the population have to live with.
4. **Evaluate (mini conclusion)** e.g. So even though countries can have the potential to close the development, this is not a process that can occur because the people in charge corruptly ensure that it can’t.

NB: A strong essay will have a variety of points (possibly 3 or 4) on both sides of the debate that you have establish.

Conclusion

Make it clear, reflect what you have said in the main body of your essay, don’t add in anything new and answer the question. Don’t be afraid to acknowledge that the question is difficult to answer, but try to make a decision.

AS ESSAY GUIDANCE

1. Identify what the question is asking you to do?
Describe...
Explain...
Examine...
2. Decide which case studies you will use; in every essay you should refer to at least one case study.
3. Plan your essay – think about which points you want to make, do you need to classify them (e.g. socio-economic/environmental impacts)?
4. Write your essay using the format below. Spend 25 minutes writing your essay.

AO1 Knowledge and Understanding (/13)
AO2 Analysis and Application (/5)
AO3 Skills and Communication (/7)

Introduction

Introduce the overall topic, define the key terms and introduce the case studies – this is a very important section but needs to be done concisely.

Main Body

Make a decision on how you are going to structure your essay – by case study, different types of impacts etc?

You need to ensure that your points are written in paragraphs (one point per paragraph). Remember to follow the pattern of make a point, explain it and develop it with detailed evidence to support each point to ensure you get the A01 and A02 marks.

Conclusion

Make it clear, reflect what you have said in the main body of your essay and don't add in anything new.

Structuring an Essay



Without the buns, the burger falls apart – Without an introduction and conclusion an essay falls apart

Without the burgers, the burger is pointless – without the knowledge, an essay is pointless

Without the cheese, the burger is just too dry – without the examples, the essay is just too dry

Without the bacon, the burger just isn't perfect – without the analysis, the essay just isn't perfect

Without structure the burger will collapse – without structure, an essay will collapse

REMEMBER TO USE GEOGRAPHICAL VOCABULARY!