**How to answer Essay Questions**

You must make a judgement about the extent to which different factors contributed to an event or development, or to its impact. You are required to provide a balanced account of the influence of different factors and come to a reasoned conclusion based on the evidence presented.

The essay question will always start “To what extent was the issue affected by factor A”.

This means that you will always have 1 factor provided. You need to add the other factors that affected the issue from your own knowledge.

Essay questions are worth 8 marks.

Marks can be awarded as follows:-

A maximum of 5 marks can be given for relevant, factual, key points of knowledge used to support factors, with 1 mark given for each point. If only 1 factor is presented a maximum of 3 marks should be given for relevant points of knowledge.

A further 3 marks can be given for providing the answer in a structured way and coming to a reasoned conclusion.

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| **Introduction (1)**  Make the question a statement,” *write to the extent that”* and add 2 or 3 other factors that could have a bearing on the question | **Make the Question a statement** | **List the 5 issues you will argue** |
| **Issue 1**  This will always be the factor mentioned in the question. Explain the importance of that factor in your own words and add at least one piece of relevant knowledge to back it up. | **Issue** | **Knowledge to back it up** |
| **Issue 2**  Think of another factor that might have bearing on the question. Explain the importance of that factor in your own words and add at least one piece of relevant knowledge to back it up. | **Issue** | **Knowledge to back it up** |
| **Issue 3**  Think of another factor that might have bearing on the question. Explain the importance of that factor in your own words and add at least one piece of relevant knowledge to back it up. | **Issue** | **Knowledge to back it up** |
| **Conclusion**  Sum up your argument and decide which of the factors you discussed was the most important. | **List of factors** | **How important was the named factor?** |