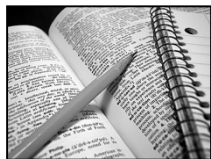


## How To Write A Good Introduction



Presentation by **Duncan Bunce**  
Edited by Dr Peter Jepson

## Welcome

- Ensure mobile phones are off
- No eating in the classroom
- You may take notes



## Guidelines for an Introduction

The aim?

- Your interpretation of the question
  - What is the question asking?
- The structure of your answer
  - Your approach to the question?

**Remember...it will be the first thing the examiner reads...make it engaging and exciting!**

## The Interpretation of the Question

The examiner wants to see that you understand the question.

- Outline the main points
  - Identify the central issue/problem
  - Identify one/two concepts and their importance for analysis.
  - *Consider if you should give the answer to the question in the introduction itself.*

**The next stage....**

## Structure of Your Answer

- Broadly outline the plan you are working from...  
this does not need to be long!

'A good introduction is successful because it allows readers to prepare themselves mentally for...the major points of interest in your argument...'

(Lynch and Ritterhouse, *Writing at Harvard*, Harvard University 2000)

## Unwritten Rules

- Avoid making your introduction complex and long-winded
- You *can* have your introduction go to two paragraphs (but see above!)
- Do not spend all your time on your introduction, it is only *one* part of your essay

*If you decide to answer the question in the introduction itself:*

- In the introduction you also need to indicate that you will analyse, test, and evaluate, your answer throughout the essay.

**Thank you for listening**