

The Main Body of the Essay



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Welcome

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



Guidelines for the Main Body

- What is the main reason why an essay is given a low mark?
- **Answer:** The student does NOT show that they are answering the essay title/question.
- At the end of each paragraph/argument, you should relate back to the words in the title and demonstrate how your argument relates to the essay title/question.

Guidelines for the Main Body

Another reason essays often get a low mark?

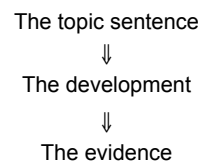
- Some are nothing more than a list of points!
- If you simply produce a list points your essay will inevitably be host to the following problems...
 - A lack of content/depth
 - A disjointed piece of work
 - You have not shown a range of skills

Guidelines for the Main Body

- Your essay should flow in a logical manner from the introduction
 - Working from your plan will achieve this (see *Planning*)
- Each paragraph **must** be relevant to the essay title/question
- The marks are in your discussion of the essay title/question

Guidelines for the Main Body

Generally, there are three parts to any paragraph:



The Topic Sentence

Begin your paragraph with the relevant point you wish to raise...

E.g. Deterrence is aimed at preventing and reducing crime...

Sometimes you will need to begin a paragraph by showing the examiner where you are going...

E.g. "However", "In Contrast", "Therefore"

The Development

This is where you demonstrate to the examiner your ability to show:

- **Recall** (topic knowledge)
- **Synthesis** (create a clear argument)
- **Analysis/Evaluation** (examine its value)

Remember, if a question asks you to "Describe" or "Discuss" – the examiner wants to see **more** than a basic recall of facts!

Evidence

- This could take the form of an example you have found during your reading

E.g. a case example, a statute, a statistic

- While tempting, your own opinion as evidence has *no* academic authority
- Acknowledge your sources (see *Referencing*).

Thank you for listening