

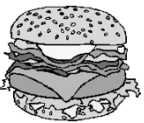
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 **Do not chat during this lecture ... 1**

- Turn off your mobile.
- Raise your hand if you have a question.
- Annotate these notes if you need to.


 **It is often said that an essay is a bit like a sandwich 2**



It has three layers (an Intro, Middle and Conclusion).


 Homework Essays ... **3**

- ☛ We expect depth in your Homework essays.
- ☛ Research - using textbooks ...
- ☛ We expect you to go into detail and show some analysis.
- ☛ Make sure you answer the essay title/ question.

 20 Minute Essays ... **4**

☛ Twenty minute exam essays give little time to explain, in an introduction, how you intend to answer the question - and, in a conclusion, how you have answered the question.


It follows that you often need to go straight to the meat of the essay.

 You must first plan your answer **5**


A plan is vital because it helps you produce a simple and easy draft.

It helps you focus on answering the question.


It helps provide a structured answer.


 **Sub-Headings are also vital ...** **6**

- It helps provide structure for your essay.
- Use Sub-Headings in your essay and establish these from your plan.


 **You MUST explain your thinking.** **7**

- Always write as if you are explaining issues to a little boy or girl.




 **For example ...** **8**


- **If you are asked to comment on the advantages of a lay magistrate over a stipendiary magistrate.**
- Don't simply say "a lay magistrate has local knowledge" – explain the relevance and importance of local knowledge etc. For good marks, you could refer to an academic authority (an author of a law book) and analyse the presumption that such local knowledge is an advantage to the magistrates.

 ALWAYS use sub-headings in your essay **9**

➤ Sub-headings help establish structure in your essay writing. More importantly they demonstrate the same to the examiner. Logically, your sub-headings should relate to your essay plan.

 The marks are in the discussion ... **10**

➤ Carry out your essay plan - by discussing the issues raised in the question. Make reference to examples or case law (explaining the example/ case and the relevance to the essay topic). REFER and relate back to the words used in the essay title.

 In the core of your essay ... **11**

➤ Make reference to any authorities (Authors, Acts of Parliament).
➤ Try to analyse the issues in relation to any authority (academic writers and/or case law). If necessary, critically analyse any authority.
➤ Give examples



In any Conclusion (be brief).

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- ☛ Summarise the theme of your essay and any outcome - relating back to the essay title/question.
- ☛ Do NOT raise new issues in the conclusion.



'Plagiarism'

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- ☛ This means you cannot copy someone else's work or lift extracts straight from an article or book and pass them off as your own
- Examiners are very strict on plagiarism.
- ☛ - If you quote from an article, book etc
 - ☛ - you must provide a footnote indicating the source.



Produce a Bibliography.

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- ☛ A bibliography is a list of materials you have read, then referred to in your answer. The correct way of listing a book is shown below (author, title, publisher and year of publication). A law case (showing the legal reference) is also shown. Martin J. - 'The English Legal System' - Hodder & Stoughton (1998).
- ☛ Donoghue v Stevenson [1932] All ER 562



Dealing with problem questions ...

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- Read the entire problem a few times.
- Use a highlight pen to help identify and mark out key words/issues.
- Try to identify a structure to the problem question and develop your response/ essay plan in relation to that structure.



Dealing with problem questions ...

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- Answer the problem question in essay form – your introduction could explain the key issues and how you intend to answer. Subsequent paragraphs could relate to characters/sections from within the problem.
- In answering the problem question, relate to ALL elements that you have identified.



Dealing with problem questions ...

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- Try to use cases and/or statutes to back up your arguments.
- If ever there is a date in a problem question – it generally relates to an issue (e.g. the claim for compensation may be out of time etc).



Laws help and advice ... **18**

- Use short-listed essays.
- Discuss essays with a fellow student.
- Establish a study buddy
- Ask your Laws Tutor for advice.
- E-mail pjepson@strodes.ac.uk
