

STUDENT STUDY SECTION

What is a history essay?

Essays are a central part of your IB course. They are the means by which you demonstrate your historical knowledge and understanding.

The diagram below outlines the key points that you must remember each time you write an essay. Use it as a guide each time you have an essay assignment.

How do I write a history essay?

The Essay Question

What is the question asking?

- You must be absolutely clear on this so that you fully address the actual question and do not just write generally around the topic. You will have to address this question throughout your essay and come back to it in your conclusion.

Introduction

- Address the question clearly and indicate the direction that your argument will take.
- Define key terms/concepts that are in the question, as your understanding of these words will determine the direction of your essay.

Para 1

- Each paragraph should address a new point.
- Make it clear what the topic of the paragraph is.

Para 2

Para 3

- Ensure each paragraph refers directly to the question; use the wording of the question if possible.

Para 4

- Use detailed knowledge!
- Support all general statements with specific examples.

Para 5

- Link your paragraphs so that each one is part of a developing argument building up to your conclusion.

Para 6

- Show your knowledge of current historiography.

Conclusion

- Your conclusion must come back to the question.
- Look back at the main thrust of your arguments and evidence in the essay and give a conclusion based on what you have said: this should be a direct answer to the question.

Plan

Draft

Edit