

SECTION B

Steps in writing the Investigation

Structuring the Essay

Objective:

Critically analyse the research question using evidence and perspectives.

Introduction:

- Provide a couple of sentences of context that introduce the reader to the content of the investigation.
- Itemise the main issues that will be addressed in each of the main body paragraphs to follow. Introduce areas of contestation that the essay will address.
- Give a sense of the main argument or the thesis that you will develop throughout the essay.

Main body paragraphs:

- Each aspect of the response should be developed in a paragraph. Conventionally there will be three or four aspects/main body paragraphs
- Each aspect should be introduced through a topic sentence.
- It should be explained using historical evidence. The more specific the detail the better.
- Sophisticated responses will refer to perspectives and show developed understandings of schools of thought that are relevant to the research question.

Checklist for a successful Section 2, based on the assessment criteria:

1. Writing is CLEAR (language must be tight) and COHERENT (well-reasoned)
2. You have used LOGICAL, TIGHT structure that advances the investigation toward your conclusion
3. You have conducted ON-GOING CRITICAL ANALYSIS of the topic (investigation) **and** your sources
4. The investigation (essay) is FOCUSED on the RESEARCH QUESTION (not a wandering undisciplined discussion)
5. Evidence from a RANGE of sources has been USED [*this requires more than name dropping, or the insertion of convenient quotes, you need to CRITICALLY ANALYSE all sources, demonstrating HOW they support the argument you are making.*]
6. You have included varying PERSPECTIVES - ie. different schools of historical thought, different time periods/contexts.
7. Your essay has built toward a reasoned and well-argued, well-evidenced CONCLUSION.