

STUDENT HANDOUT: A2 ESSAY WRITING GRID

INTRODUCTION	Y/N
Sentence 1: Explain what the question is asking. Why is the question important? (I.e. What difference does the answer make?)	
Sentence 2: Briefly define any technical or ambiguous terms.	
Sentence 3: Give a very brief outline of the shape of your answer – what scholars/topics will you consider & in what order?	
PARAGRAPH 1 – POINT 1	
Sentence 1: Introduce the topic of the paragraph.	
Sentence 2-5: Explain the topic, identifying major scholars and their different ideas.	
Sentence 6: Include a relevant quote and briefly explain its meaning.	
Sentence 7: Briefly explain two strengths and weaknesses of the theory you have dealt with.	
Sentence 8: Explain how this paragraph answers the question – how would a follower of this idea answer the question?	
PARAGRAPH 2 – POINT 2	
Sentence 1: Introduce the topic of the paragraph. If relevant, explain its relationship with the topic of the previous paragraph (does it support, adapt or oppose it?)	
Sentence 2-5: Explain the topic, identifying major scholars and their different ideas.	
Sentence 6: Include a relevant quote and briefly explain its meaning.	
Sentence 7: Briefly explain two strengths and weaknesses of the theory you have dealt with.	
Sentence 8: Explain how this paragraph answers the question – how would a follower of this idea answer the question?	
PARAGRAPH 3 – POINT 3	
Sentence 1: Introduce the topic of the paragraph. If relevant, explain its relationship with the topic of the previous paragraph (does it support, adapt or oppose it?)	
Sentence 2-5: Explain the topic, identifying major scholars and their different ideas.	
Sentence 6: Include a relevant quote and briefly explain its meaning.	



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Sentence 7: Briefly explain two strengths and weaknesses of the theory you have dealt with.	
Sentence 8: Explain how this paragraph answers the question – how would a follower of this idea answer the question?	
PARAGRAPH 4 – POINT 4	
Sentence 1: Introduce the topic of the paragraph. If relevant, explain its relationship with the topic of the previous paragraph (does it support, adapt or oppose it?)	
Sentence 2-5: Explain the topic, identifying major scholars and their different ideas.	
Sentence 6: Include a relevant quote and briefly explain its meaning.	
Sentence 7: Briefly explain two strengths and weaknesses of the theory you have dealt with.	
Sentence 8: Explain how this paragraph answers the question – how would a follower of this idea answer the question?	
CONCLUSION	
Sentence 1: State your opinion on the question and that you hold it for the following reasons	
Sentence 2-3: Give 2 reasons in support of your opinion	
Sentence 5-6: Give a criticism of your opinion and a reason for rejecting that criticism.	
Sentence 7: Give your final & strongest reason for your position.	