

Critical Essay Writing Rubric

Knowledge and Understanding	Argument	Use of evidence	Historical Terminology	Referencing	Levels
Comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the role of ideas, people and events in history	Compelling and cohesive argument that is sustained throughout using essay form: (Introduction, paragraphs with topic sentences, a conclusion)	Judicious use of relevant evidence from a range of sources to justify arguments and draw valid and logical conclusions	Consistent and sophisticated use of historical terminology	Comprehensive and accurate Harvard bibliography with in-text referencing	A
Detailed understanding of the role of ideas, people and events in history	Convincing and well-developed argument that is maintained throughout using essay form.	Discerning use of relevant evidence to justify arguments and draw logical conclusions	Substantial use of historical terminology	Detailed and mostly accurate Harvard bibliography with in-text referencing	B
Sound understanding of the role of ideas, people and events in history	An argument is established and developed throughout using essay form.	Thoughtful use of relevant evidence to support arguments and draw conclusions	Competent use of historical terminology	Satisfactory Harvard bibliography with in-text referencing	C
Partial understanding of the role of ideas, people and events in history	Basic argument is established and demonstrated intermittently in essay form	Basic use of relevant evidence to support arguments and draw some conclusions.	Basic use of historical terminology	Basic Harvard bibliography with some in-text referencing	D
Awareness of the role of ideas,	A simple argument is established.	Attempted use of relevant evidence to support an argument	Attempted use of historical terminology	Attempted Harvard bibliography with	E

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people and events in history				little in-text referencing	
Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	

NB: The following will need to be taught as foundational skills

- Essay form
- Argument
- Historical terminology
- Harvard style bibliography
- In-text referencing

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