



Judging Guidelines

FOCUS:

The extent to which the essay preserves clear and consistent focus on key concepts/terms.
The focus should remain throughout the essay/paper.
The argument should be relevant and appropriate to the title.

RESEARCH:

The research methodology and/or secondary sources should be appropriate to the title and argument of the essay/paper.
The extent to which sources are used should demonstrate the effort the student went to in order to complete the essay/paper.
Originality in the choice of secondary sources is favoured.

USE OF EVIDENCE:

The extent and quality of engagement with secondary sources.
The degree of knowledge and use of these sources.
There should be a thorough understanding of sources and relevant contexts.
The essay should show the ability to select and apply evidence judiciously.
References, footnotes and bibliography should be presented in accordance with the usual scholarly conventions.
When evidence is presented in a form other than text, it should be clear and unambiguous.

STRENGTH OF ARGUMENT:

The ability to present a balanced, logical, and well-developed argument that reaches a considered personal conclusion.
The essay should show an appreciation of important issues and concepts.
The argument should be perceptive and persuasive.
The chosen argument should demonstrate innovation and independent thinking.

COMMUNICATION AND PRESENTATION:

The ability to clearly communicate appropriate knowledge, understanding and insight using the relevant terminology and fluent, accurate expression.
Spelling, grammar and punctuation must be used correctly (especially in prominent texts, e.g. the title).
Arguments should be effectively structured.
References, footnotes and bibliography should be presented uniformly and comprehensively.

ORIGINALITY:

The degree of originality.

The student should show his/her ability to articulate independent opinions and judgments that are informed by others' opinions and interpretations.

The student's work should be deemed innovative, in that it presents a new argument, perspective or solution.

In appropriate categories, the potential for commercialisation should be rewarded.

Plagiarism is not tolerated.