

Criteria	A	B	C	D
Analysis (30%)	Essay demonstrates an effective understanding of key concepts; good analysis and synthesis of the material and supporting evidence; essay engages effectively in critical analysis and gives even-handed treatment to competing perspectives; evidence of original thinking.	Essay demonstrates some understanding of the key concepts; adequate range of analysis and synthesis of material and evidence. Some attempts at critical analysis of the material, though lacking in detail.	Limited understanding of the key concepts; attempts to synthesise material and evidence; little evidence of critical analysis.	Essay shows little or no understanding of the key concepts; analysis of material and evidence inadequate, not relevant or not enough to rate.
Argument (30%)	Argument is clearly stated, strongly argued and developed; good use of examples, comparisons and quotations to bolster argument, in a way that is well-integrated into essay.	Argument clear, but with limited development; examples, comparisons and quotations are used, but in way that could be more effective or better integrated;	Argument attempted but vague, or poorly/ inconsistently developed.	Argument is lacking or difficult to follow.
Structure (20%)	Logical and effective overall structure and body. Very effective connection of arguments, with logical sequencing between paragraphs. Structure emphasises argument – introduction leads reader into topic and summarises approach and argument; conclusion effectively summarises findings and follows on from analysis.	Has introduction, body and conclusion, which structure the essay reasonably well. Structure and connectedness of body adequate.	Has introduction, body and conclusion, but these are not well linked to the analysis and argument. Connections attempted but not well done - poor organization, transitions and logical sequencing. Some formatting issues.	Introduction, body and conclusion absent or inadequately constructed. Body is poorly developed. Few connections. Formatting poor.
Grammar (10%)	Fluent expression; accurate use of sentence structures; very few grammatical errors. Accurate word/idiom choice; mastery of word forms and expressions; appropriate level of usage.	Adequate fluency; simple constructions used effectively; some problems in use of complex constructions; some grammar and spelling errors.	Low fluency; significant mistakes in the use of complex constructions; frequent grammar and spelling errors, lack of accuracy interferes with meaning.	Lacks fluency; no mastery of simple sentence construction; text dominated by errors; does not communicate meaning, or not enough to rate.
Referencing (10%)	All supporting references attached and appropriately formatted according to APA format.			No references, or many lacking. Assertions frequently made without supporting references.