

A good essay should...

- have a clear introduction which motivates the question, defines its terms if necessary, introduces your material, indicates your major argument(s) and gives a sense of how you will structure your ideas.
- have a well-developed conclusion which points to the significance of your arguments, placing them in broader contexts
- be written in an appropriately formal register, demonstrating knowledge of relevant critical vocabulary
- show the progression between ideas clearly
- address the question directly and contain only relevant material
- organize ideas into a suitable structure which is appropriate for the kind of question set and for the argument you are constructing
- weigh up different views and reflect critically on them in the light of the evidence before coming to a conclusion
- be carefully drafted and polished, adhering to the rules of good scholarship in its presentation (punctuation, spelling, grammar, correct citation of sources)
- avoid plagiarism
- express ideas concisely and precisely
- show evidence of sufficient reading around the subject
- analyse texts/issues rather than simply describing them