**Typical essay structure**

**Introduction (heading not required)**

The introduction is typically 10% of word count –your module handbook or any coursework guidance notes may provide more exact instructions. The introduction should present relevant background information that provides a rationale, and outline the aim and scope of the essay.

**Main body (this should not be a heading in your essay)**

The main body builds critical analysis of the topic using a range of sources. The topic is broken down into themes or issues that you identify from your analysis of the question and reading. The essay should demonstrate good organisation of ideas.

**Theme/Q1**  
Paragraph 1  
Paragraph 2  
Paragraph 3

**Theme/Q2**  
Paragraph 4  
Paragraph 5  
Paragraph 6

**Theme/Q3**  
Paragraph 7  
Paragraph 8  
Paragraph 9

**Theme/Q4**  
Paragraph 10  
Paragraph 11

**Conclusion (heading not required)**

The conclusion is typically 10% of word count –your module handbook or any coursework guidance notes may provide more exact instructions. The conclusion should:

* Restates the main argument made in the essay
* Refer back to the issue raised in the introduction
* Not provide a summary of the structure of the essay, and instead should focus on issues
* Consider future implications or possibly recommendations
* The reader should be able to read the introduction and the conclusion and know
  + why the issue is important
  + what the structure of the essay is – what issues are covered
  + what the writer’s position is

**Reference list**

The reference list should include all sources listed in alphabetical order by surname following Harvard referencing conventions.