Typical essay structure

**Introduction (heading not required)**

**(10% of word count)**

* Presents relevant background information that provides a rationale for the essay.
* Outlines the aim and scope of the essay

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

Builds critical analysis of 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, which are discussed in different sections

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme/ Q1** Paragraph 1Paragraph 2 Paragraph 3 |  | **Theme/Q 2** Paragraph 4 Paragraph 5Paragraph 6 |  | **Theme / Q3** Paragraph 7 Paragraph 8 Paragraph 9 |  | **Theme / Q4**Paragraph 10Paragraph 11 |

**Conclusion – heading not required**

**(5-10% of word count)**

* The “take-home” message - restates the main argument made in the essay.
* Refers back to the issue raised in the introduction
* Not a summary of the structure of the essay – focus on issues, not structure
* Considers 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**

* All sources listed in alphabetical order by surname following Harvard referencing conventions