



## Typical essay structure

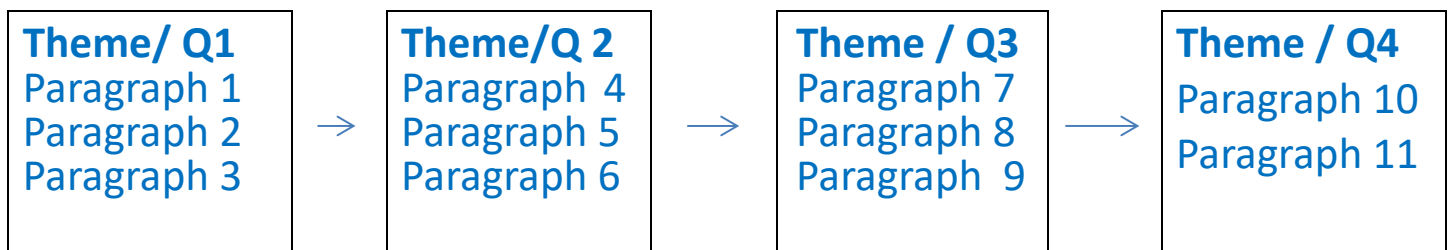
### Introduction (heading not required) (10% of word count)

- 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



### 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