

Reading for your assignments

Read with a purpose: generate questions to focus and structure your reading.

An effective starting point to do this is to break down the question into several sub-questions to guide your reading, typically WHAT, WHY, HOW and SO WHAT?

Question: "Crime is a social construct. Discuss"

This title raises the following questions:

- How is crime defined?
- What does the term social construct mean?
- What arguments are put forward as evidence that crime is a social construct?
- Are there different/competing perspectives on this issue e.g. do feminist/Marxist/functionalist theorists view the issue in the same way?
- What are the implications of crime being a social construct?
- Why does it matter?

Question: "Critically evaluate the key factors which influence job satisfaction"

This title raises the following questions:

- What is job satisfaction?
- Why is it an important issue in the workplace?
- What are the characteristics of high or low job satisfaction?
- What impacts on job satisfaction - different factors?
- How do they impact on job satisfaction?
- Which factors have the biggest influence and why?
- How can job satisfaction be increased?

These questions break the topic down into manageable chunks. They also help you navigate the literature which includes: recommended text books, research articles in academic and professional/practitioner journals, authoritative websites e.g. corporate, national and local government, international and non-governmental organisations - check your module reading list for appropriate publications and websites.