



Example Essay Titles

Instructions | Concepts | Context

Discuss the relation between narrative style and moral judgement in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness. (University of Sussex, 2018)

Interpretation: The use of discuss typically indicates that the assessor wants the essay writer to undertake a critical analysis of the most important issues in a concept. In this instance, the essay is asking you to discuss the relationship between two given concepts. Therefore, the essay discussion needs to be focused on the relationship between the two concepts, rather than two standalone issues. This question indicates the need to be critical, as the relationship between the concepts *narrative style* and *moral judgement* are assumed to exist, but the exploration of the nature of this relationship is left to be determined by the essay writer. Finally, the text for discussion has been declared, but the text should not be the sole source of evidence for this essay; critique from other Conrad scholars would be essential for discussion.

What is the importance of imitation in early child development? (University of Leicester, 2018)

Interpretation: In this question, the assessor is asking the essay writer to examine the importance of the key concept, as opposed to other important factors in early child development. Critical analysis is implied through the subtle suggestion that there might be more important factors than *imitation*. It is the task of the essay writer to make an argument to either suggest that the concept is of huge importance to the context, or to argue that another concept is more important. To answer this question well, the essay writer will not only need to support their argument with evidence, but also find evidence to the contrary, to illustrate opposing viewpoints.

Outline the difficulties facing the tourist industry today. (University College Birmingham, 2018)

Interpretation: Typically, the essay instruction *outline* suggests the provision of the main points of an argument. However, critical analysis can also be interpreted here, as the assessor might be encouraging comparison of the current tourist industry, and how this industry was in the years before, through the contextual use of *today*. Due to the ambiguity of the essay instruction, the essay writer will need to be careful not to just provide a list of every single difficulty in the present-day tourist industry, with little or no analysis. They might need to select a few of the difficulties and discuss these in depth. For this question, it would be worth going back to the assessor for some clarity!

Compare and contrast the consequences of blindness and deafness for language development. (Loughborough University, 2018)

Interpretation: With this essay question, the critical analysis is clear from the onset. *Compare and contrast* explicitly tells the essay writer that they need to identify and weigh up the *consequences* of both concepts, in terms of similarities and differences, and make a conclusory judgment on language development, and how these are understood in light of the conclusion. Critical discussion of why one is more valid than the other would be encouraged, with lots of evidence to support the argument. It would be useful for the essay writer to consider the essay word count in this instance and ensure that equal weighting is given to both concepts, to ensure that all aspects are covered fairly.

References

- Loughborough University. (2018). What does the question mean? [PDF]. Retrieved on 26 November 2018 from <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/media/wwwlboroacuk/content/library/downloads/advicesheets/question%20A4.pdf>.
- University College Birmingham. (2018). Essay writing [webpage]. Retrieved on 26 November 2018 from <https://www.ucb.ac.uk/handbook/academic-matters/essay-writing.aspx>.
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