

How to plan a better extended essay in economics?

The following points will help you to write better answers:

- 1 Reading is crucial. This may involve additional research in the library. Be sure to record all of your sources in your bibliography.
- 2 Have a clear target for each chapter before you write
- 3 Construct an outline of your essay in diagram form.
see chart BELOW
 - It is crucial to write short sentences in all your written work. Long (3+ lines) sentences can be very difficult to write without losing clarity of expression.
 - Clear, concise and therefore usually short sentences are most effective in making your argument
- 4 Introductory sentences are crucial. Each paragraph of your essay should have a clear introductory sentence highlighting the main idea of the paragraph. Remember each paragraph should contain one main idea or component of the answer.
- 5 Punctuation and spelling are important.
- 6 You must use the a-b-c approach in structuring your essay. *It is crucial. Your essay will be more coherent and convincing as a result!*
The outline should be quite detailed. Try and use the model below or modify it as you like!

Extended Essay Structure/Outline

A Abstract (300 words)

Introduction 10%

- Chapter 1: Introduction: 10% Briefly outline your research / avoid too much detail here. Provide some background info to your story. What interested you about this topic?

B Main Body 75%

- Chapter 2: Theory Link. Identify need for research
- Chapter 3: Research
- Chapter 4 Findings
- Chapter 5 Conclusion

C Conclusion 15%

Check List

- Structure before answer. Use the ABC approach
- Use the Title = accuracy = relevant answer
- Focus on key words of question e.g. Discuss, Outline, Assess, Evaluate *etc*
- State argument in first sentence of paragraph
- Content must be relevant to question
- Avoid personalised language
- Re-read your work
- Diagrams used
- Diagrams labelled
- Diagram is directly referred to in your answer
- Theory must be correct
- Question will determine the detail required in your a-b-c outline. If it is a question which asks you to *explain advantages and disadvantages* the outline will be easy. If the question requires you to discuss then the outline must clearly guide your writing e.g Assess the merits of Keynesian economics. It will take a little more time to organise such an outline.
- Never write an essay without an outline.
- Please send me any other suggestions you might have!