* Read each question through at least twice.
* Work out what is expected, in general, for each question. Which part of the course does it refer to? Towards which issues is the question directing you?
* Think about how the question is worded very carefully - a slight difference in wording might require a very different answer.
* Highlight key words in the title. Notice how many parts there are to the question - think again at this stage about what angle the question is taking on the issues it raises. It is very important that you respond to the specificities of the question: if you do not offer a valid analysis, but rather just put down everything you know about the subject, you will get low marks.
* At any time, jot down ideas you have about the questions on a separate sheet. Note the relevant question number beside each idea.
* Your answer should reflect the sophistication of your thinking, so think critically at a higher level.

A good essay presents the reader with a logical, clear and detailed argument. The main strands and structure of this argument should be established clearly in the introduction. The conclusion of an essay should then bring these strands together in order to highlight the main argument, and convince the reader that the question has been carefully explored and clearly stated.

#### A good introduction should:

* indicate that you understand the question and how you are interpreting it
* establish what you will be arguing and how
* begin to define the key terms of the essay
* locate your argument in a critical debate/historical context

#### A good conclusion should:

* sum up the main strands of your argument
* refer back to the main points of the essay question and be consistent with your introduction
* clearly establish a point/points, re-emphasising the evidence which justifies the point(s).