

Essay Assessment Guidelines

PHIL1104 Winter 2023

A range.

Essay has a clear structure, with an excellent introduction and conclusion. Paragraphing is excellent and there are clear direction-indicators (sign-posting). The content is relevant to the question set and is covered at the required level of depth. There is exceptional understanding of the topic. There is a logically developed argument which shows critical analysis, independence of thought, and originality. Expression is economical, clear and concise. Presentation is very good, with correct spelling and punctuation throughout. Good use is made of the relevant literature. Quotations are relevant, apt, and properly referenced.

B range.

Essay has a clear enough but less than transparent structure, with a good introduction and conclusion, but there may be some repetition and a lack of sign-posting. The content is mostly relevant to the question set, but there may be sections that do not directly deal with question set. There is a good general understanding of the topic, but also occasional misunderstandings. There is a logically developed argument which shows some critical analysis and independence of thought, but there may be gaps in the argument and an over-reliance on other people's views. Expression and presentation is generally good but occasionally lacks precision and accuracy. Quotations are generally suitable but may occasionally lack purpose and may not be properly referenced.

C range.

Essay lacks a clear structure. There is little sign-posting and little order or purpose to the paragraphing. There is a pattern of points being repeated rather than developed. The content is mostly relevant to the question set, but there are also sections that are off-topic. The topic is generally understood but there are also indicators of significant misunderstanding or confusion. There is a logically developed argument but a lack of critical analysis and independence of thought. Expression often lacks precision and accuracy. Quotations may lack purpose and may not be properly referenced.

D range.

Essay lacks a structure. There is little sign-posting and little order or purpose to the paragraphing. Points are often repeated rather than developed. The content often lacks relevance to the question set. The topic is generally understood but there is also significant misunderstanding or confusion. There is a lack of critical analysis and independence of thought. Expression often lacks precision and accuracy. Quotations may lack purpose and may not be properly referenced.

F.

Essay has no structure / argument / content relevant to the question.