1.3 Argument, structure and reflection

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS argument • structure • topic sentence • conclusion • reflection • supervisor

Objective

Write the essay: build a clear **argument** that answers the research question, organize it in a logical **structure**, reach a **conclusion** that follows from the evidence, and **reflect** on the research process in the reflection sessions.

You must be able to:

- plan a structure that serves the argument
- write topic sentences that advance the argument
- write a conclusion that answers the question and notes limits
- present data, quotations and references correctly
- write a reflection on the research process

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Structure

Title page → contents → **introduction** (the question, why it matters, approach) → **body** (sections that build the argument) → **conclusion** (the answer, limits, new questions) → references → appendices (only if needed).

Topic sentences

Each paragraph begins with a sentence that moves the argument forward. Weak: "Now I will talk about the RAF." Strong: "The RAF's contribution was most important in the first six weeks, before American aircraft arrived in large numbers."

Conclusion

Answer the research question directly; weigh the evidence; state the **limitations** of your sources or method; suggest **new questions**. Do not add new evidence.

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Reflection

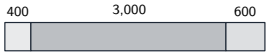
Students meet their supervisor for **reflection sessions** and record their thinking. Good reflection is about **process**: what changed in your thinking, what problems you met and how you solved them, what you would do differently.

Worked reflection. "My first question asked about the whole airlift, but in my second session I realized I could not cover it in 4,000 words. I narrowed it to the RAF, which let me compare British and American records in detail."

2 Practice

2.1 Explain what a **topic sentence** should do in an EE paragraph. [2]

2.2 An essay plan gives 400 words to the introduction, 3,000 to the body and 600 to the conclusion. Calculate each part's share of 4,000 words, and explain whether the conclusion is too long. [3]



2.3 Explain **four** things a strong EE **conclusion** should include. [4]

2.4 Rewrite this weak reflection so that it focuses on **process**: "I enjoyed my EE and learned a lot about my topic." [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(EE planning.)* Write a section plan for your essay: the introduction, three body sections with topic sentences, and a conclusion that answers the research question. [10]



3.2 Explain why an EE conclusion should **not** introduce new evidence. [5]

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