



International Politics Writing Guidelines

- Start work on your essay early.
- Choose a question or topic, and assess exactly what it is demanding.
- Make of a list of possible sources of information (the textbook and reader, additional books, journal articles, media, internet).
- Do some reading, take notes, and outline your essay structure (with the demands of the question uppermost).
- Consult your tutor or lecturer with any queries about the essay question, your essay structure, or sources.

Typically require you to draw on readings and insights from more than one topic.

Are best addressed by breaking down the question into its components:

key definitions required

key facts or descriptions required

time periods

description/facts versus analysis/argument/opinion

You are required to relate the topic to its treatment and relevance for international politics, not domestic or comparative politics. You are also required to make at least brief references to key international relations theories with relevance to the essay topic.



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Use a conventional structure: Introduction, Main Body and Conclusion

Use subheadings to break the essay into thematic sections, and to group together sections of argument.

Be concise:

Avoid repetition of points or arguments

Make every sentence count, don't waffle

Word Limits: don't fall short of the word limit by more than 100 words; don't exceed the word limit by more than 150-200 words. Use the "word count" function in *Word* (under "tools" menu). Structure your essay carefully and logically, before you begin writing within your outline.

Introduction

1. Set the scene by briefly outlining the key issue, problem or dilemma your essay addresses; outline the stages of your essay

Main body

2. Set out key definitions, facts or description

3. Move into analysis or argument, using facts, sources or quotes where relevant

4. Divide main body into sections, if the question or your answer deals with separate issues

Conclusion

5. Very briefly summarise your key arguments, in two or three sentences

6. Set out your analytical conclusion



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Outline how Tutsis (the dominant/ elite race) were differentiated from Hutu's (the subordinate/ peasant race)

Explain how this differentiation led to an uprising that over several decades would culminate in civil war.

Highlight how the government labelled Tutsis