**Essay plan**

**Slide 1: Introduction**

This is a presentation on writing the essay plan for Assessment 1. The presentation attempts to provide some strategies that may be useful for your task completion and illustrate some good and bad examples of the essay plan. The examples shared in this presentation are samples only and have been used to demonstrate what your tutors would generally perceive as meeting the task requirements. You do not have to produce exact replicas of the good examples or use the strategies identified in this presentation. However, you do need to demonstrate all the required characteristics in order to obtain good grades.

**Slide 2: The task**

You are required to write an essay plan for this assessment task. The essay plan should be approximately 800 words and include an introduction, the body and in-text citation as well as the reference list. You can only write your essay plan once you have done your reading and obtained an understanding about the debates and discussions about the topic that you have chosen. You need to tell a logical story about the topic with evidence from your reading. Do not just quote what others are saying about the topic. You need to read widely and critically and make interpretations for yourself. Write an introduction to introduce the key arguments of the essay to your reader. Do not just repeat the question. Specify what you will be addressing. Continue by writing the topic sentence or the key idea of each paragraph that will be expanded in the essay, which you will be writing for Assessment 2. Make sure that the ideas progress logically and don’t forget to cite the sources where your ideas have come from. Use the APA 6th edition referencing conventions for the in-text citation of your essay plan and the reference list which you will include at the end of the plan.

**Slide 3: Interpreting the task: An example**

The first thing you should do once you have chosen the topic is to identify the key words and phrases. This will help you locate the necessary resources for writing the essay. In the example provided on this slide, the following are important: ‘\*explain, \*psychological factors, \*socio-cultural factors, \*influence, \*individual’s experience, and \*pain as they form the crux of the question. Begin your reading to get a general understanding of what the debates are with regard to these concepts. Ask yourself the following questions: \*‘What does the task require of me?’; ‘What does explain mean for this task?’; \*’What are some of the psychological factors that refer to the topic?’ \*’What are some of the socio-cultural factors that are related to this topic?’ \*’How do these factors influence the experience of pain?’ \*’Why do these factors influence an individual’s experience of pain?’ \*’What are the implications of this for pain management?’, etc.

‘Try and identify the issues that are discussed in your readings. This will help you to choose the three or four issues that you are required to address in your essay for Assessment 2.

**Slide 4: The processes involved**

You can only come up with a good essay plan \*once you have done your reading and obtained an understanding about the debates and discussions about the topic that you have chosen. \*You need to tell a logical story about the topic with evidence from your reading. Do not just quote what others are saying about the topic. You need to read widely and critically and make interpretations for yourself. \*Write an introduction to introduce the key arguments of the essay to your reader. Do not just repeat the question. Specify what you will be addressing. \*Continue by writing the topic sentence or the key idea of each paragraph that will be expanded in the essay. Make sure that the ideas progress logically and don’t forget to cite the sources where your ideas have come from. \*Use the APA 6th edition referencing conventions for the in-text citation of your essay plan and the reference list.

**Slide 5: Essay plan (one possible strategy)**

\*One strategy you could use to draw up your essay plan is to write the question in the middle of a large sheet of paper. \*Then circle the key words or phrases in the question and draw a line from each of these. \*Next, note the key points and ideas from your reading against the key words or phrases in the question. \*Finally, number the different sections of your rough plan in the order in which you think you will mention them in the essay. Transfer this to your essay plan. Don’t forget to record the bibliographic details of the sources from which you obtained your key points.

**Slide 6: Essay plan1: Intro example (Good & Weak)**

On this slide you will see two examples, a good and weak introduction for the example topic. Take a few moments to read the two examples. Can you see why the first introduction is better than the second one? \*In the example of a good introduction, the writer introduces the topic and provides a brief background. This allows the reader to engage with the discussion. The writer also briefly highlights the issues related to the topic. You don’t have to state all the issues; one or two would be sufficient. Finally, the writer introduces the aim of the essay. Even a reader who does not know anything about the topic will be able to follow the logic of the discussion as the writer has clearly and succinctly introduced the context of the argument.

\*In the weak example, all the writer has done is repeat the question. The reader is not able to engage with the topic as the writer has not provided them with a context.

**Slide 7: Essay plan: example of the body section**

On this slide you can see the body section of the essay plan. Observe how the writer has provided the topic sentence introducing the main point of each of the paragraphs in their essay plan. \*They have logically outlined the structure of the essay and cited their sources. If you read the topic sentences, you will realise that there is a clear progression of ideas beginning from the definition of pain to psychological factors. The writer then goes on to discuss the third main idea which is the socio-cultural factors that contribute to the level of pain. However, due to the limitation of space, that section has been left out of this presentation. You will also notice that the writer has not quoted or copied what they had found in their readings. Rather they have critically read and made interpretations for themselves and the reader. The writer will also provide a full reference list for all the sources they have cited in the body of their essay plan using the recommended referencing conventions.

**Slide 8: Essay plan: example reference list**

On this slide you can see the reference list that adheres to the APA 6th edition referencing conventions. The reference list only presents the references that have been cited in the body section of the essay plan. Make sure that you follow the conventions consistently.