

12m Essays - Key Info

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There are two types of 12 mark essay in Higher Modern Studies -

- Analyse
- Evaluate

As with 20 mark essays, the first thing we should be doing when being presented with an essay question is consider what it is asking us to do. Make sure you are aware of any commands within the question.

Look at the example questions below:

Analyse the ability of *parliament* to *hold the government to account*. (12)

Evaluate the view that *social class* is still a major influence on *voting behaviour*. (12)

What to include in a 12 mark essay

In a 12 mark essay marks are allocated as follows:

Knowledge - 8

KU refers to the information that you know that is relevant to this topic. These can include facts and figures, examples, or the views of specific individuals. Each relevant piece of information you use will give you **one** KU mark. This must be **recent** and from the last **10** years.

Analysis/Evaluation - 4

Unlike a 20 mark essay, in a 12 mark essay there are 4 marks available for analysis AND/OR evaluation.

Analysis refers to your ability to do something effective with the KU you have used. Analysis marks are about your ability to make an argument about the importance or significance of something. What does this show us? What is the significance of this? What are the consequences of this?

Evaluation is about your ability to reach a judgement on an issue. You should be looking to reach a judgement at the end of every paragraph. For example, when it comes to choice for voters, how effective is FPTP in providing this. You should look to write a mini-conclusion at the end of each paragraph, reaching a judgement and justifying conclusion.

How to layout my essay?

There is no absolute right way to write an essay. The most important thing is that you answer the question in an informed and evidenced manner. However, this structure is the best way to ensure you maximise marks in your essay.

You do not need an introduction in a 12 mark essay. Instead you should start with your first paragraph. As with 20 mark essays you should have an introductory sentence to start the paragraph. You should then include a mixture of knowledge and analysis/evaluation.

You should aim to write **3 paragraphs** in a 12 mark essay. Whilst you do not need an overall conclusion, you should aim to write one as you can gain evaluation marks here.



12m
Pressure

