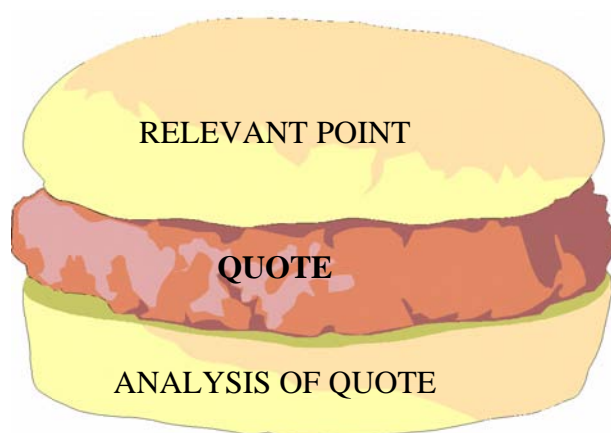


GCSE ESSAY ADVICE SHEET

When writing an essay (whether coursework or exam) there are certain rules you need to follow in order to optimise your chance of a high grade. Below is a list of suggestions that will help you write the perfect essay:

1. Always write out a brief plan for your essay, even in an exam. The plan could be six or seven numbered sentences which outline what you will write in each paragraph.
2. Never put titles or sub-titles in your essay.
3. Always have a brief introductory paragraph to your essay. It should explain what your line of argument is going to be, but it should not be a summary of the text; you can assume the moderator/examiner knows the text reasonably well.
4. Each paragraph should contain a relevant point, with appropriate quotation(s) and some analysis of the quotation, which builds towards your overall argument.
5. You can consider each paragraph of your essay to be a hamburger, like this:



Each paragraph of your essay should follow the above structure (although it need not *literally* look like this!): you make a relevant remark about the text which addresses the question (this is the top piece of the bun), then you write your quotation which is the filling (beef or vegi) and the subsequent analysis of the quote (ie its relevance to your point) is the bottom part of the bun.

REMEMBER: The bottom piece of bun should always be thicker than the top otherwise your bun is too weak, your hamburger falls apart and you end up with a gooey mess (ie no strong argument and a low grade).

6. Draw your essay to a definite and succinct conclusion. Sum up what you have written and prove that you have answered the question.
7. After writing an essay read it through and, for each paragraph, mentally (or if in draft, actually on the paper) make a note to yourself which says, 'My argument in this paragraph is'. If you are unable to do this your argument is obviously not clear and if you (the writer) are confused imagine how your reader feels!
8. ALWAYS give yourself plenty of time to write your essay, otherwise you will end up with a homework pile that looks like this and you will receive a low grade for a rushed essay.



However, if you follow the above advice, when you receive your marked essay back you will be more likely to be pleased with the result, like this:

