

# Setting and Marking Essays

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# Setting Essay Questions

## Two Broad Types

- **Restricted Response**
  - Explain cause and effect relationship
  - Present relevant arguments
  - Formulate tenable hypotheses, valid conclusions
  - Explain methods and procedures
- **Extended Response**
  - Produce, organise and express ideas
  - Integrate learning from different areas
  - Evaluate worth of ideas
  - Create original forms

# Some guides for setting Essays

- Describe and explain
- Compare and Contrast
- Discuss
- Cause and Effects
- Creating, Designing
- Analyse, Synthesise, Evaluate, Inferring
- Generalise
- Speculate
- Able to assess HOTS

# Marking of Essays

- **Global/Holistic/  
Impressionistic  
Marking**

1. Model answer assumed – implicit/explicit
2. Subjective – judgemental
3. Categorical scores preferred

- **Analytical Marking**

1. Use of marking scheme
2. Give specific marks for certain points
3. Numerical scores preferred

# Suggestions for scoring essays

- **Prepare an outline of expected answer in advance**
- **Use the scoring method that is most appropriate**
- **Decide how to handle factors that are irrelevant to the learning outcomes being evaluated**
- **Mark all responses question by question, rather than paper by paper, shuffle scripts to avoid ordering effects**
- **Mark without looking at student's name**
- **Mark penmanship, organisation, etc. separate from content, if deemed important**
- **Eliminate any biases in marking**
- **If high stakes decisions are to be made based upon results, obtain two or more independent ratings**
- **Check for intra-rater and inter-rater reliability**