

A sample essay outline

Here is an example of an essay outline developed using the guidelines:

Discuss the effects of the unemployment benefit system on the New Zealand economy.

(word limit: 1000-1200 words)

The ideas are organised using the block method. In essays that explore opposing views, the dilemma for students is deciding which view (or block) to discuss first. Generally, you should be guided by your thesis.

In this outline, the positive effects are discussed first, so that the main part of the answer supports the thesis - that the unemployment benefit system has more negative than positive effects.

Introduction

- Relationship between unemployment and the health of an economy.
- Status of the NZ economy at the time.
- The aims and rationale of the benefit system.
- The thesis: more negatives than positives; scope: 2 positives; 4 negatives.

Body 1

- Unemployment benefit system: how it works, its relationship to unemployment.
- Introduce most obvious positive effect.

Body 2

Second positive effect and support.

Body 3

First negative effect and support.

Body 4

Second negative effect and support.

Body 5

Third negative effect and support.

Body 6

Fourth and most damaging effect and support.

Conclusion

- Summarise the positive effects and negative effects.
- Restate the thesis: that negative effects outweigh positive effects.
- In its current form, the system is not sustainable.