



# HOW TO STUDY ECONOMICS

SAMPLE

*New & Updated*

By **JC Economics Essays**

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## How to approach essay questions

The best way to approach questions is to **circle the command word**, so that you know what it is that you must do to answer the question; then **highlight the keywords or key concepts** you must write about; and finally **apply a standard but incredibly effective approach (outline)**.

First, let us deal with command words.

### *Command words*

The most important thing when addressing any essay question, whether it is Economics and General Paper, is to answer the question by interpreting the command word properly.

Here is a list of the most important command words and what they mean, in alphabetical order.

**Analyse:** break down an argument or information into different component parts and identify ways in which those parts are interrelated. Your essay answer should have the keywords: first and foremost, next, last but not least, the first aspect, the second aspect, it can be argued that, it is possible to argue that, it can be strongly argued that, some argue that.

**Assess:** make a judgment about the relative importance of different arguments and viewpoints. Your essay answer should have the keywords: first and foremost, most importantly, the limitations are, above all, or in the final analysis.

**Compare:** describe two or more arguments, ideas, concepts, and events and then show both the differences and similarities between them.

It should be noted that many, many years ago, “compare” meant to show the similarities between two arguments, ideas, concepts, and events, whereas “contrast” meant to show differences.

Nowadays, however, “compare” means both differences and similarities, whereas “contrast” still means show the differences only. Some schools and some examiners use “compare and contrast” to ensure that students know the difference, but you know the secret to success – “compare” means both differences and similarities.

Your essay answer should have the keywords: similarity, difference, similarly, differently, however, in contrast, by way of contrast, on the one hand, or on the other hand.

**Contrast:** describe two or more arguments, ideas, concepts, and events and then show the differences between them. Your essay answer should have the keywords: difference, differently, however, in contrast, by way of contrast, on the one hand, or on the other hand.

**Compare and contrast:** basically the same as “compare”. Your essay answer should have the keywords: similarity, difference, similarly, differently, however, in contrast, by way of contrast, on the one hand, or on the other hand.

**Discuss:** consider the arguments both for and against the issue raised in the question, and for the sake of examination strategy always come up with a reasoned conclusion in the end after

considering both for and against. Your essay answer should have the keywords: it can be argued that, it can also be argued that, on the one hand, on the other hand, however, and yet.

**Evaluate:** make reasoned judgments about the validity of a particular argument, idea, concept or statement, presenting a reasoned argument of all relevant issues involved. Your essay answer should have the keywords: in my opinion, arguably, examining the evidence, evaluating the evidence, to a large extent, to a small extent, to a limited extent, it is likely, it is not likely, or it is possible.

**Explain:** interpret the meaning of a particular argument, idea, concept or event, to illustrate understanding. Your essay answer should have the keyword: because.

**To what extent:** this implies that there is no definite answer to the question posed, and the candidate should present both sides of the argument and then show judgment by stressing the strength of some arguments over others. Your essay answer should have the keywords: to a large extent, to a small extent, or to a limited extent, or the statement goes a long way to explaining XYZ, the argument goes for in explaining, or in the final analysis.

**Want to study Economics effectively and effortlessly?  
You can find out more of the methods and techniques  
for success in this book.**

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