



University of Sussex

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The following strategy will help you to decode **any** essay title you need to answer.

The **PQRS** strategy - the definitions:

P is for Parts

How many PARTS are there to the question?

You must check the question carefully to make sure you address every part.

Q is for Question words

Essay questions use KEY WORDS that signal the essay type:

for example, discuss, outline, compare.

You must follow this instruction.

R is for Relevant

Your answer must be RELEVANT to the question.

A fascinating essay that doesn't answer the question will always be marked down.

S is for Structure

Essays should be WELL-STRUCTURED.

This helps the reader follow your argument,

and shows you think clearly, and can organise information.