



## Aligning Your Baseline and Final Assignment Examples

### Social Science Example 1

**Final Assignment Question:** “Who decides who is, and is not, a terrorist?”

To answer this essay question, you will need to:

- Use case studies. You can draw on the one's we have discussed in class or find your own. **Please remember to be careful if you are looking for sources on terrorism online on your own and speak to me if you have any concerns.**
- You should, in your answer, draw on topics from all the lessons, even if you are focussing on one specific aspect of the course (i.e. religion, or anti-terror law).
- I will expect to see evidence of correct referencing in your work. If you make a claim, back it up with evidence (an article, a quote from a book, etc). You can find some guidance on referencing in the appendix.
- As part of your answer, I'd like you consider how we might try to combat the threat of terrorism better. This will be based on your own impressions, and what you've learned in the course.

Subject Knowledge (Understand)	Academic Skills (Be able to do)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Critically analyse 'terrorist' and 'terrorism'</b></li><li>• <b>Evaluate how society creates a definition of terrorist/terrorism and how that can change</b></li><li>• <b>Demonstrate a good understanding of relevant topics</b></li><li>• Correctly use technical terms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Use evidence to support claims and assertions</b></li><li>• <b>Make links between subjects and use concepts from tutorial in unfamiliar contexts</b></li><li>• <b>Moves beyond description to evaluation and includes reasoned points</b></li><li>• <b>Demonstrate clear structure and presentation</b></li></ul>

**\*Bolded text can be assessed in both baseline and final assignment**

**Baseline Assignment Question:** How do we talk about Terrorism?

For your first assessment, I want you to read the two newspaper extracts closely. Both of these articles are about Osama Bin Laden, the leader of Al Qaeda. The first is from 1993, and the second is from 2011. Both of them are from *The Independent* (a British newspaper).

Your task, in 350-400 words, is:

- Read the two articles carefully and think about why Osama Bin Laden is portrayed in two very different ways.
- You should consider the language used in both articles, why Western views on Bin Laden changed.
- You should also try to connect your answer to how definitions of terrorism are fluid (i.e. they can change over time).

As well as the articles below, you may want to draw some parallels with the exercise about Nelson Mandela in Tutorial 1.

## Social Science Example 2

**Final Assignment Question:** "How do social and political factors influence the **integration and mental health/psychosocial wellbeing** of people from migrant communities in the UK?"

The tutor has then suggested the following structure to pupils with further guidance on what might be discussed in each:

- Introduction
- Spotlight 1: Define and explain what migration studies is.
- Spotlight 2: Evaluate the main disciplines that migration studies covers.
- Spotlight 3: Compare one source from tutorial 3 with one from tutorial 4
- Spotlight 4: Give your opinion on "the migration debate"
- Spotlight 5: Suggest 1-2 interventions or strategies that the British government could develop to support the mental health and psychosocial well being of migrants in the UK
- Conclusion

Subject Knowledge	Academic Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Define migration and diaspora and identify its causes</b></li> <li>• Explore who studies migration and evaluate what this contributes to the debate</li> <li>• Evaluate influence of discourse around migration on public opinion and individual migrants (benefits and pitfalls)</li> <li>• <b>Correctly use technical terms</b></li> <li>• <b>Demonstrate a good understanding of relevant topics</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Use evidence to support claims and assertions</b></li> <li>• <b>Make links between subjects and uses concepts from tutorial in unfamiliar contexts</b></li> <li>• <b>Move beyond description to evaluation and includes reasoned points</b></li> <li>• <b>Demonstrate clear structure and presentation</b></li> <li>• Critique various sources for reliability/bias/agendas</li> <li>• <b>Conduct independent research</b></li> </ul>

**\*Bolded text can be assessed in both baseline and final assignment**

**Baseline Assignment Question:**

With reference to the information we have learned during Tutorial 1, using one factor per paragraph:

- Define what is meant by social, political, psychological and economic factors
- Give one example of each of these factors. The example must be from your **own independent research**
- Explain how the factor you have chosen benefits and/or disadvantages society.

Your assignment should be approximately 500 words in total and each paragraph should be clearly written using the Point, Evidence, Explanation, Link (PEEL) and be between 100-125 words in length.

## Social Science Example 3

### Final Assignment Question: How should the government buy trains?

The Department for Transport (DfT) has asked you to write an essay that responds to the question of train procurement and provides policy advice using evidence. The paper must include an executive summary at the beginning (150-200 words, counted towards the word limit) that will provide the essential information contained in the essay (remember, the Transport Secretary is a busy person!) Always define terms and concepts so that everyone can understand what you are talking about. Remember, how the government buys trains affects many people, and everyone should be able to read your essay!

Suggested structure of the essay (each section can have multiple paragraphs):

- **Introduction (300 words):** State the importance and relevance of the question being asked (why is the government buying trains at all?)
- **Section 1 (400 words):** Describe the procurement process associated with buying trains.
- **Section 2 (400 words):** Discuss the challenges that can occur in the different stages of procurement using economic theory and examples from a recent train purchase. In particular, explain and argue the opportunities and challenges associated with:
  - Imperfect competition (hint: the use of market price)
  - International trade (hint: industrial protectionism, specialization)
- **Section 3 (400 words):** Explore the complexity of the procurement by stating some common challenges of megaprojects
- **Conclusion (300 words):** Summarise the main lessons that the Department for Transport should remember when buying trains in the future. Provide justifications for the advice you are providing.

Subject Knowledge	Academic Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the procurement processes for train purchases</li> <li>• Assess the challenges of procuring trains</li> <li>• Convey key subject knowledge and use relevant technical terms</li> <li>• Apply economic theories to the train procurement process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use evidence to support claims and assertions</li> <li>• Make links between subjects and use concepts from tutorial in unfamiliar contexts</li> <li>• Move beyond description to evaluation and include reasoned points</li> <li>• Clearly conveys their own position/point of view</li> </ul>

**\*Bolded text can be assessed in both baseline and final assignment**

**Baseline Assignment Question:** Why does the government buy trains, and what are the challenges that can occur in procuring trains?

- **Introduction (60 words):** Start by stating the importance of trains. Explain any general terms or concepts that you would be using throughout the text. Also, tell the reader about the structure of the essay.
- **Section 1 (80 words):** Respond to the first part of the question; refer to tutorial discussions and previous knowledge, but also consult additional resources in Appendix 3 to provide information about UK government's involvement in buying trains; describe the situation of train purchase and ownership in the UK before focussing on the specific question.
- **Section 2 (120 words):** Respond to the second part of the question; refer to tutorial discussions and materials and feel free to consult more resources within and outside the handbook. Make sure you provide context before launching into a discussion and give examples to help the reader understand what you are saying and why you are saying it.
- **Conclusion (40 words):** Finish the essay by summarising and providing any further thoughts on the questions. Always remember, the introduction and conclusion are the most read portions of your essay and therefore should fit together well (so that even if someone skips the 200 words in between, they can still get an essential understanding of the contents).