**How to write an 8 Mark Essay**

At National 5 you will be asked to write a longer answer to a question that is **worth 8 marks**. Writing these answers involves using the same skills as normal knowledge questions where you **add detai**l, put each point into **separate paragraphs** and **answer the question**. You will also add **an introduction**, **a conclusion** and **make a judgement** about the most important reasons for something happening or the biggest impact. Below is some advice on how to lay out an 8 mark essay.

* **Introduction** 
  + Give a **brief introduction** to the topic of your essay e.g. *The American Civil War was fought between 1861 and 1865 and, the Union Army won.*
  + Now **summarise the main points** you are going to mention. They should appear in the same order as in your essay.
  + If there is a point mentioned in the question you MUST talk about that one First i.e. *To what extent did* ***better equipment*** *contribute to the North’s victory in the civil war?*
* **5 Factors in paragraphs**
  + Discuss the **factor in the question** first

**5** marks for detailed KU

* + Each factor should be in a **SEPARATE PARAGRAPH**
  + Each paragraph should follow a set **structure**. Use the guide below.

**PEEL** the Paragraph

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **P**oint | *Give your POINT using the* ***wording of the question***adding a little explanation to make it clear. |
| **E**xample | *Give your EXAMPLE/ DETAILS. Make sure that they actually* ***back up your point****!* |
| **E**xplain | *Explain your example or details and how it helps to answer the question.* |
| **L**ink | *LINK your point to the question using the* ***wording of the question****.* |

* **Conclusion**
  + Write a summary of your points and **ANSWER THE QUESTION** i.e.*In conclusion …*
  + State which factor(s) are the most important in a **judgement** i.e. *Overall, the most important reason why the north won was …*
  + Give a **reason** for this judgement i.e. *This was more important than other factors because ….*

**3** marks for structure

* **1 mark** for giving good points to back up your answer
* **1 mark** for making a judgement
* **1 mark** for backing your judgement up with reasons