**ESSAY MARKING SCHEME**

Candidate:

Marked by:

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| **Marking Criteria** | **Distinction** | | | **Commendation** | | | **Pass** | **Fail** | **Zero** | **Mark** |
| High  (> 90%) | Mid  (80-90%) | Low  (70-80%) | High  (67-69%) | Mid  (64-66%) | Low  (60-63%) | 50-59% | 1-49% | 0 |  |
| **Idea**  **(5 marks)** | * Presents a novel idea * Choice is significant to question posed | | | * Choice is significant to question posed | | | * Choice is significant to question posed, but not clearly described | * Choice is not significant to question posed | No work submitted. |  |
| **Knowledge**  **(20 marks)** | * Excellent summary highlighting key facts with no irrelevant details * Evidence of in-depth reading, with appropriate references * Demonstrates good understanding of the topic | | | * Good summary highlighting key facts but with some omissions * No major misconceptions about the topic | | | * Summary lacks depth and may include many irrelevant details and/or omissions * Some major factual inaccuracies | * Limited summary which only deals with basic facts and is largely superficial * Major factual inaccuracies present | No work submitted. |  |
| **Discussion**  **(40 marks)** | * Clear independent insight and critical awareness of relevant concepts * Convincing argument * Consideration of wider relevance * Backs up arguments with appropriate references | | | * Some evidence of independent insight and awareness of relevant concepts * Convincing argument * Backs up arguments with appropriate references | | | * No evidence of independent insight, instead largely relying on the opinions of others * Good argument | * Significant flaws in argument | No work submitted. |  |
| **Organization**  **(10 marks)** | * Use of diagrams and/or tables to support ideas discussed in the essay * Use of sub-titles and/or clear topic sentences * Essay does not exceed 1500 words * Good essay structure with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion * Arguments presented in a logical order | | | * Essay does not exceed 1500 words * Arguments presented in a logical order * Good essay structure with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion | | | * Unclear essay structure * Arguments presented in a jumbled manner | * No evidence of essay structure | No work submitted. |  |
| **Supporting Materials**  **(5 marks)** | * References add value to arguments * References referred to in the body of the essay, and a complete list of references is provided at the end of the essay * No errors in the referencing format | | | * References referred to in the body of the essay, and a complete list of references is provided at the end of the essay * Some errors in the referencing format | | | * List of references provided at the end of the essay, but not referred to in the essay itself * Errors in referencing format | * No references provided | No work submitted. |  |
| **Writing Style**  **(20 marks)** | * Concise writing style * Strong scientific writing, which is close to a publishable standard * No grammar or spelling mistakes | | | * Scientific writing at the level of A-level students * A few grammar or spelling mistakes | | | * Many grammar or spelling mistakes | * Writing is unable to communicate ideas * Many grammar or spelling mistakes | No work submitted |  |