**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 |  |