ESSAY MARKING SCHEME

Candidate:

Marked by:

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	