

Discuss

DESCRIPTION

Present key points about different sides of an argument, issue or the strengths and weaknesses of an idea.

Approach this similarly to other evaluative commands (assess, to what extent, evaluate).

TYPICAL TARIFF

- 6 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO1 and AO2 – demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

AO3 – application of knowledge and/or evaluation.

EXAMPLES

Paper 2

Using Figure 10 and your own understanding, discuss the issues arising from the UK's changing energy mix. **[6 marks, AO2 and AO3]**
2018

Paper 3

'The physical environment is an important resource for the tourism industry in Bali.'
Use Figure 2 and your own understanding to discuss this statement. **[6 marks, AO2 and AO3]** *SAMs 1*

COMMAND(s)

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Students should:

- present both sides of the argument, but it doesn't need to be balanced
- refer back to the question in answers using words from the question, eg important, significant, useful
- consider structuring responses appropriately, eg:
 - opening with one side of the argument
 - making multiple points to support the argument
 - making counter-arguments
 - finishing with a clear conclusion that links back to the question
- use wording from the statement, if the question has one
- use evidence from examples, case studies or fieldwork, linking it back to the question
- link ideas from the figure if there's one
- answer 'how' and 'why' to develop responses
- extend their argument using phrases like, 'because...', 'this means that...', 'this leads to...', 'as a result...'
- use comparative words to evaluate, eg 'whereas', 'however', 'although'.

EXAMPLE RESPONSE

Using Figure 10 and your own understanding, discuss the issues arising from the UK's changing energy mix.

[6 marks] 2018

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AO2 – Demonstrates developed understanding of issues relating to the UK's changing energy mix

AO3 – Can apply application of knowledge to the stimulus and effective discussion of the issues (judging importance, positive/negative etc).

L2/4-mark answer:

In 2016, the UK used 7% more gas than in 2006, which means more pollution would have emitted into the atmosphere. Furthermore, we will one day run out of gas, or will no longer be able to import it – unsustainable.

Furthermore, renewable sources such as wind and hydro are not as efficient as the combustion of fossil fuels, so must be done more to create the same amount of energy. Also these sources require desalination for water as coolant, decreasing water security and also using vast sums of energy in the process.

Examiner's commentary:

Clear L2 for both issues and discussion, but this requires more detail, eg 'more must be done' requires elaboration. Some inaccuracies (the data, confusing information about desalinisation).
Level 2: 4 marks

