

Faculty of Social Sciences and Law

Model Answers to Assessments

Schools in SSL do not routinely provide model answers to examinations or other assessments. There are various reasons for this, including:

1. In essay subjects in particular, there is never a “correct” or “model” answer. We are looking for quality of explanation, prioritisation, selectivity and a critical approach, not comprehensiveness. Good answers should display evidence of wide-ranging reading and study and this will usually involve some degree of independent specialisation. For this reason, good answers are often quite different from each other.
2. We discourage an overly assessment-based focus to study because it invites question-spotting and “surface learning” (learning for the exam). Instead we encourage you to learn material deeply so that you are able to apply that learning in a variety of contexts you may not have encountered before. This ability to use your learning in different ways is highly valued by employers as well as examiners.
3. We try to develop our units to keep them current. Past questions are not necessarily a good guide to the examination or the content covered in future exams.
4. In mathematical subjects we are interested in your ability to use the techniques that are covered in the unit. We give marks for this even if there are inaccuracies in your answer. The understanding of method, and your explanation of it, is usually more important than the answer to the particular question because it shows us that you can apply the material in a variety of contexts.

We recognise the importance of practising assessments before examinations or submission. For this reason, we aim to provide you with relevant practice through coursework assessments on which you will receive feedback.