

Psychology essay rubric page 1	FAIL (UNSATISFACTORY)	3RD (SATISFACTORY)	LOWER 2ND (GOOD)	UPPER 2ND (VERY GOOD)	FIRST (EXCELLENT)
Answer [<i>Does the essay address the particular question set?</i>]	The essay is on the wrong topic or completely ignores the specific issues highlighted in the question.	The material in the essay is somewhat relevant, but the essay does not directly answer the specific question set.	Most of the material presented is relevant to the question, but the writer has not spelled out its relevance in an explicit manner.	The material is relevant and the writer has explained why it is relevant to the question set.	The material is highly relevant and the writer has done an excellent job applying it directly to the specific question set.
ARGUMENT [<i>How convincing is the essay's overall line of argument?</i>]	There is no discernible line of argument.	There is a discernible albeit weak line of argument. The argument is not very convincing or coherent.	There is a relevant line of argument, but the writer does not spell it out in sufficient detail for it to be convincing.	There is a clear and coherent line of argument.	There is a very strong, clear and original line of argument.
EVIDENCE [<i>Are claims well supported by relevant theory and empirical evidence from the literature that are described clearly and accurately?</i>]	The essay contains no or very little relevant evidence. What it does discuss is highly inaccurate.	The essay contains some relevant evidence, but either very limited in scope or the description of the theories and studies are full of omissions and inaccuracies.	The essay discusses a good number of relevant theories and studies, but the descriptions contain some omissions and inaccuracies.	The essay contains accurate descriptions of all of the most relevant theories and studies.	The essay provides highly accurate descriptions of all the most relevant literature and includes many independently sourced articles.
STRUCTURE [<i>Is the essay well organised?</i>]	There is no discernible essay structure.	The essay has a loose and confused structure that is hard to follow.	The essay has a discernible structure, but it is not always very clear and easy to follow.	The essay has a clear and coherent structure.	The essay has an extremely clear and coherent structure.

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EXPRESSION [<i>Is the essay written in clear, properly punctuated, grammatical English? Does each sentence and paragraph flow well?</i>]	The English expression is very weak and extremely hard to understand. There is no flow: each sentence and paragraph seems unrelated to the next.	The English expression is satisfactory, but there are places where it is hard to understand. There are also places where the sentences or paragraphs do not flow well.	The English expression is for the most part good with just a few awkward sentences and places where the material flows poorly.	The English expression is clear and flows nicely.	The essay is written in very clear, flowing and engaging style.
REFERENCING [<i>Are references inserted correctly in the text and formatted properly at the end of the essay?</i>]	The referencing is either absent or very poorly inserted and inaccurately listed at the end.	There is some appropriate referencing, but there are also lots of inaccuracies and omissions.	The referencing is appropriate for the most part, but there are a number of minor errors.	References are inserted accurately and appropriately in the text and listed correctly at the end.	The referencing is to a professional standard.