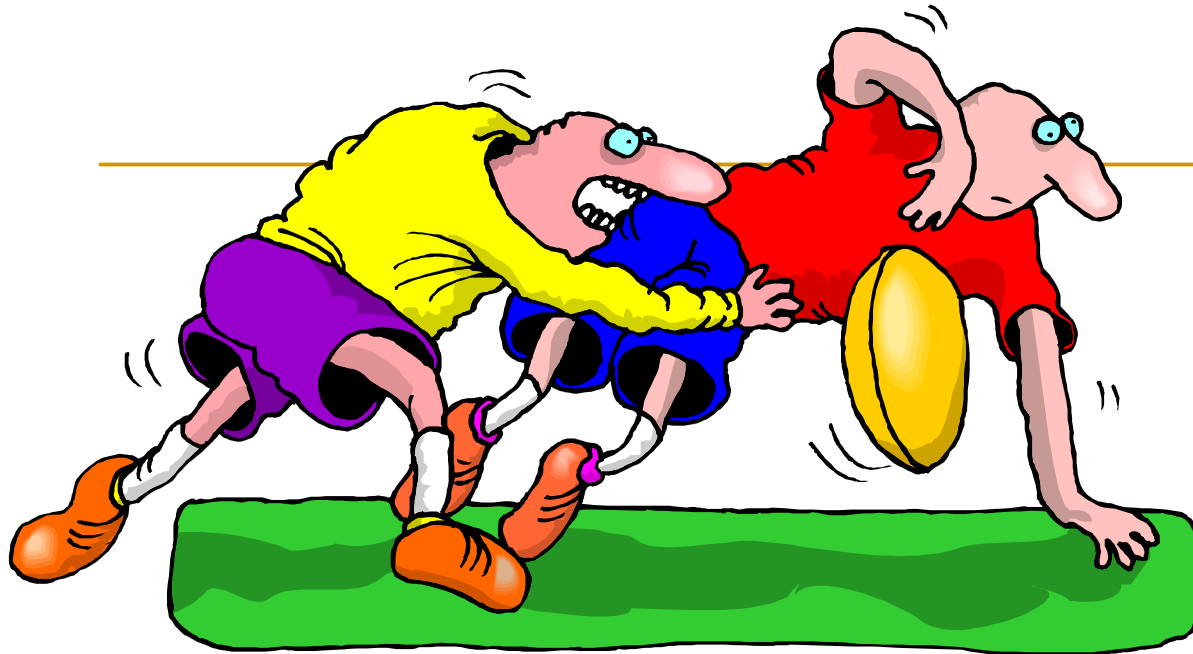


Easy Essays

How to Tackle Essay Questions



Get in the Mindset

- Essay tests or questions put the game in your hands
 - Opportunity to show what you know
 - Does not place pressure in choosing out of provided choices
- Answers vary (could still be a right or wrong response)
 - Supporting details are at discretion of writer



Preparing a Game Plan

- Do you know the questions beforehand?
- If not, do you know the main topics?
 - Identify main ideas, processes, relationships
- Create outline
 - Could use flow chart, hierarchy, concept map, traditional outline
 - Avoid writing the essay (takes up too much time and difficult to memorize)
 - Focus on facts: show what you know



Reacting to What You See on the Field

- Is question prescriptive or open-ended?
 - Prescriptive: supply anticipated main points then support/illustrate them
 - Ex. Discuss the three elements of the psyche as outlined by Freud
 - Open-Ended: no “golden” answer; goal is to provide your answer with focus on support of your answer
 - Ex. Discuss how Washington shaped the American Revolution.
-

Reacting to What You See on the Field...cont'd

- What tips are included in the essay?
 - Pointer words and what they mean:
 - **Discuss:** asks for detail; open-ended
 - **List:** try to include all that is needed; do not narrow to most important (unless asked for); does not need to be overly detailed
 - **Describe:** focus on detail and features
 - **Analyze:** break down the topic; how do the components work together; focus on relationships
 - **Compare/Contrast:** consider characteristics of two or more things; discuss each characteristic on its own; point-by-point
 - **Prove:** present one side; need to be persuasive
 - **Trace:** used in history most often; examine phases in sequence
-

On the Field: Knowing the Plays

■ Brain Dump

- ❑ Do not worry about recall
 - ❑ Once test is given, use the back of the test or blue book to write down facts
 - ❑ Avoid writing an outline, simply put down facts (names, places, dates)
 - ❑ Mnemonic Device: remembering tool
 - Use methods to make information quickly come to mind
-

On the Field: Writing the Essay

■ Time Limitations

- Teachers want to see what you know
 - Avoid worrying about perfect grammar
 - Less emphasis on introduction and conclusion
 - BE SURE to include a thesis statement
 - Show off how much you know
 - General rule is at least 50% of what you write needs to be specifics
 - Avoid filling in essay with unneeded introductions and conclusions (teachers will think you don't know enough)
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On the Field: Watch the Clock

- Know your time constraints
 - Do you have the whole class? How many other questions need responses?
 - Do not focus so much on one point that you will leave out all other points
 - Space out your points
 - How much time do you have for each paragraph
 - Ensure some time to check work
 - No need for drastic revision
 - Is it factually accurate?
 - Does it make sense?
 - Are grammar/spelling errors not overwhelming the reader?
-

Questions...Anyone...Questions?

