

ESSAY TITLE ANALYSING

PICKING THE TITLE TO BITS (Stage 1 of the essay writing process)

1. Underline the key words and phrases.
2. Identify the following elements of the title. Bear in mind that that not all essay titles have all the elements!

The key issue - what the essay is all about; the core subject of the essay.

The “do” word(s) and/or phrases (verbs) - what you actually have to do with the key issue.

Any context or parameters - within which your discussion must take place.

3. Define the “do” word(s) and/or phrase(s). Use the handout “*Do” words in essay titles* handout to help with this.

AN EXAMPLE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| DO PHRASE | KEY ISSUE |
| <u>Critically evaluate</u> | <u>// two theories of child development, // with</u> |
| CONTEXT | CONTEXT |
| <u>particular reference to boys</u> | <u>// in the early years</u> |

Definition of “do” phrase: weigh up the arguments for and against each of the theories, looking at the evidence on both sides of the argument.

ROUGH PLAN OF THE MIDDLE SECTION OF THE ESSAY

| | | | |
|----------|--|---|-------------|
| Theory 1 | - description |) | |
| | - arguments and evidence in support of this theory |) | |
| | - arguments and evidence against this theory |) | boys in the |
| | |) | early years |
| Theory 2 | - description |) | |
| | - arguments and evidence in support of this theory |) | |
| | - arguments and evidence against this theory |) | |