Group and individual tasks

# Chapter 7: Writing assignments, reports and dissertations

## Essay 1

***Question: ‘What makes the difference between an essay receiving a fail and one receiving a mark of 75%?’***

The first thing that springs to mind is that the person who wrote the essay which got a mark of 75% does not necessarily mean that he is smarter than the one who failed the essay. It just means he knew more about the essay, or in other words he was prepared better for the essay.

Preparing for an essay or an exam is done in different ways, through attendance, time management, listening, taking part in activities set and other ways such as when attending lectures, you sit listen anjd make notes when you feel you may forget something that could be of great importance to you.

When writing an essay, you should not only think about the content that you are going to write, but also the way in which you are going to structure the essay, spelling and also grammer.

Attendance is a key factor which decides whether or not a student will pass or fail, a student who attends more is more likely to reap the rewards for attending rather than someone who turns up for a lecture every so often. In my university, there is evidence that a student who attends ¾ of their lectures is likely to gain a pass mark around the 50% region, and someone who has attended all lectures, seminars and tutorials will receive a mark upwards from 60%, this has been the case for the last few years. It just goes to show that attendance is vital.

When you think about someone receiving a fail you being to assume that they’re attendance must have been poor, that they didn’t pay much attention in lectures etc. On the other hand, there is a student who receive 75%, you know straight away that this student’s attendance must have been good and the way in which he structured his essay must have been excellent.

Time management is also a key factor when writing an essay. You have to make sure you spread your time out well and that you have enough time to finished each question well and you leave 5 minutes to spare at the end to check for spelling mistakes.

The students who fail in the essay may not have managed their time well, it is very easy to get carried away talking about one thing and forgetting how much time you have left, and not then having enough time to complete the rest of the questions to the best of your abilities.

When writing an essay, you should always spend five or ten minutes at the start to read through the question fully and understand it, as there is a thin line between passing and failing and by not fully understanding the question, you could be jeopardising your chances of gaining a pass.

A big difference between receiving a pass and a fail depends not on the quantity of your work, but on the quality. It does not really matter how much you have wrote in an essay whether its 2 pages or 5 pages. If you feel you can answer a question brilliantly in only 2 pages, then the examiner won’t deduct marks.

Finally to conclude to receive a good pass your attendance must be good and you should have good time management skills, as well as learning to structure essays, such as similarities and differences and to always give evidence when needed. Points like these are what separate students who pass from those who’se attendance is poor they’re time management skills are poor and that ultimately fail in their exams.