

HSC essay scaffolds: Topic sentences

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The following essay scaffolds were developed to assist students struggling to compose topic sentences to begin their writing.

URBAN PLACES

Possible Extended Response Questions

- Discuss the effects of urban dynamics on a large city in the developed world.
- Contrast mega cities in the developing world with world cities in terms of their nature and spatial distribution. Include examples in your answer.
- Account for changes in both social structure and patterns of advantage and disadvantage in a large city from the developed world.
- Contrast the nature and character of mega cities in the developing world with world cities.
- Account for the changing nature, character and spatial distribution of mega cities
- Analyse the impact of urban dynamics on the ecological sustainability of a large city in the developed world.

Urban Dynamics

Syllabus content

- the urban dynamics of change: suburbanisation, exurbanisation, counterurbanisation, decentralisation, consolidation, urban decay, urban renewal, urban village, spatial exclusion
- a case study of the results of the urban dynamics in a large city selected from the developed world including its:
 - social structure and spatial patterns of advantage and disadvantage, wealth and poverty, ethnicity
 - changing economic character, nature and location of residential land, commercial and industrial development
 - culture of place as expressed in the architecture, streetscape, heritage architecture, noise, colour, street life, energy, vitality and lifestyles
 - growth, development, future trends and ecological sustainability
- a case study showing one of the urban dynamics listed above, operating in a country town or suburb.

Introduction

Urban dynamics are changing the structure and morphology of urban places, particularly large cities around the world. These processes include suburbanisation, exurbanisation, counterurbanisation and decentralisation, urban decay and renewal, consolidation, the creation of urban villages and spatial exclusion. Each of these processes in isolation and combined change the character and structure of cities.

Topic Sentence examples:

- **Suburbanisation** is....
 - The impact of this process includes...
 - Specific examples of suburbanisation include...
- **Exurbanisation** is....
 - The impact of this process includes...
 - Specific examples of exurbanisation include...
- **Counter-urbanisation** is....
This is linked to decentralisation...
 - The impact of this process includes...
 - Specific examples of counter-urbanisation include...
- **Urban decay and renewal** are....
 - The impact of these processes includes...
 - Specific examples of urban decay and renewal include...
- **Urban consolidation** is....
 - The impact of this process includes...
 - Specific examples of urban consolidation include...
- **Spatial exclusion and the creation of urban villages occur when**...
 - The impact of these processes are...
 - Examples include...

Sydney Case Study

- Sydney is a large city in the developed world. Its main **characteristics** and features include....
- Change has occurred in Sydney in the last century due to the following **urban dynamics**...
- The **changing economic character** of Sydney is demonstrated in...
- **Industrial and residential land use** is shown by.... Change in this area includes... and it is due to...
- The **social structure** of Sydney has also changed over time and there is now less of an equal society and more of an economic divide. This is because... and the impact of this is **spatial patterns of advantage and disadvantage** as seen in...
- The varying **cultural geography** of Sydney can be seen through patterns of ethnicity, religion and identity, leading to the creation of a **culture of place** in different locations. Examples include... and the impact of this is...
- The **future growth of Sydney** is guaranteed due to increasing population. A focus on **sustainable development** is essential moving forward.
- The main **issues facing Sydney are a linked to growth in population**. Issues stemming from this include.... And specific examples are...
- The incorporation of **sustainable resource use** is also important. Ways to do this include... specific examples are...
- Conclusion.

World Cities

- the nature, character and spatial distribution of world cities
- the role of world cities as powerful centres of economic and cultural authority
- the operation of global networks
- the relationships of dominance and dependence between world cities and other urban centres and the changing role of regional centres and the demise of the small town.

- A **world city** is defined as... there is an increase in world cities due to...
- World cities are **characterised** by...
- World cities are **dominant** urban areas, with smaller regional centres and rural areas **dependent** on them. The impact of this is... Examples include...
- The **spatial distribution** (where they are on Earth) of world cities is...
- World cities sit atop the **world hierarchy** of urban places and their main **roles** are...
- World cities are **global centres in the operation of global networks**. National metropolis and regional centres are...
- Additionally, world cities are areas of **cultural and sporting significance**. This includes... examples are...
- **Regional centres and small towns** are not only reliant on world cities, but also **declining** in importance because of them. This is caused by... the impact is... and a specific example is...
- Conclusion.

Mega Cities

- the nature, character and spatial distribution of mega cities in the developing world
- the challenges of living in mega cities such as housing, traffic infrastructure, water and power supplies, sanitation services, employment, and other social and health issues
- the responses to these challenges such as self-help projects, community self-government, cooperation from NGOs, urban protest and the operations of informal economies.

- A **megacity is defined** as... the characteristics shared by mega-cities include overurbanisation, labour intensive employment, centres of government in nations and areas of great inequality...
The **spatial distribution** of mega cities is...
- Living in mega cities presents a number of **challenges**. These include access to employment, housing, poor infrastructure and low health and wellbeing standards.
- **Employment** in mega cities are characterised into the formal and **informal economies**. The impact of this is... specific examples include...
- There is **inadequate access to housing** in mega cities. The reasons for this include... specific examples are...
- **Infrastructure** often does not meet the needs of the large population in mega cities. This leads to issues with water and sewage, energy, waste disposal, traffic congestion and lack of transport. The specific impacts of this are... examples include...
- **Growing overpopulation issues** has led to increased **poverty and low standards of health** and wellbeing. The impact of this is... and examples include...
- Appropriate and **effective responses to these problems** are crucial for the increasing number of people living in mega cities. The focus must be strengthening local government to be more effective, implement ways to decrease poverty and support communities and ways to make mega cities more sustainable.
- **More specifically, strategies for improvement include**... self-help projects, community self-government, cooperation from NGOs, urban protest and the operations of informal economies.
- **Self-help projects** are... examples include...
- Communities also have the option to **self-govern**. This means... examples include...
- **Non-government organisations** are... examples...
- **Urban protests** are also seen to be important because... examples include...
- **The operation of the informal economy** is essential to reducing issues in mega cities because... examples include...
- Conclusion



Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/49/Mumbai_Night_City_%2818219784390%29.jpg

ECOSYSTEMS AT RISK

Possible Extended Response Questions

- Explain the importance of ecosystem management and protection in ecosystems at risk.
- Assess the effectiveness of the strategies that have been used to manage the threats to at least ONE ecosystem at risk.
- Explain how ONE ecosystem at risk has demonstrated both vulnerability and resilience in response to natural stress and human induced modifications
- Analyse the biophysical interactions that occur in ONE ecosystem at risk.
- Discuss how management strategies could be used to address human impacts that are placing TWO ecosystems at risk.
- Evaluate traditional and contemporary management strategies of TWO ecosystems at risk in terms of ecological sustainability
- Assess the impact of humans on the functioning of TWO ecosystems at risk.

Syllabus content

Ecosystems and their management

- biophysical interactions which lead to diverse ecosystems and their functioning
- vulnerability and resilience of ecosystems
 - impacts due to natural stress
 - impacts due to human induced modifications to energy flows, nutrient cycling, and relationships between biophysical components
- the importance of ecosystem management and protection
 - maintenance of genetic diversity
 - utility values
 - intrinsic values
 - heritage values
 - need to allow natural change to proceed
- evaluation of traditional and contemporary management strategies.

Introduction

An **ecosystem** is defined as... the **functioning** of ecosystems are essential to the operation of the ecosphere. These key functions include...

Topic Sentence examples:

- **Operations that occur within ecosystems are essential to their functioning.** Some of these key processes include nutrient recycling and energy flows and the carbon cycle. Further details about these include...
- **Factors that affect the functioning of ecosystems** are linked to the four spheres of the biophysical environment. Each of these sphere operations and the interactions are detailed below...
 - Atmosphere...
 - Hydrosphere...
 - Lithosphere...
 - Biosphere...

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- All ecosystems aim to function in a state of **dynamic equilibrium**. This means that... however all ecosystems are both **vulnerable and resilient** to stress at a variety of levels.
- Ecosystems can suffer impacts due to **natural stress or human induced impacts**. Natural stresses include... On the other hand, human induced stresses are...
- The reasons for certain levels of **vulnerability and resilience are due to the following factors** – biodiversity, extent, linkages and location. Each of these are detailed below in relation to one/two ecosystems at risk.
- BELL – GBR
- BELL – Wetlands
- **Biodiversity** is characterised by the... ecosystem biodiversity leads to...
- The **extent** of an ecosystem affects the vulnerability and resilience due to...
- Ecosystem **linkages** impact...
- The **location** of an ecosystem affects...
- The **management of ecosystems** is important, and they must be managed and protected for several key reasons. **These include the maintenance of genetic diversity for utility, intrinsic and heritage values and the need to allow natural change to proceed.**
- The **maintenance of genetic diversity** includes... examples include...
- All ecosystems have a utility **value**. This refers to... and examples include...
- Similarly, ecosystems have **intrinsic values**. These include... and examples are...
- Also important is the **heritage value** of ecosystems. This means... and examples include...
- Finally, the **need to allow natural change to proceed** refers to... this is essential because... examples are...
- To assist with ecosystem survival, a variety of **contemporary and traditional management** strategies can be implemented.
- A **contemporary management strategy** refers to... examples include... they are effective/ineffective due to (proof)...
- Conversely, **traditional management strategies** refer to... examples include... they are effective/ineffective due to (proof)...
- Conclusion

Case Studies should be implemented into the above scaffolds.



Sand Dune ecosystem

Syllabus content

- TWO case studies of different ecosystems at risk to illustrate their unique characteristics including:
 - spatial patterns and dimensions: location, altitude, latitude, size, shape and continuity
 - biophysical interactions including:
 - the dynamics of weather and climate
 - geomorphic and hydrologic processes such as earth movements, weathering, erosion, transport and deposition, soil formation
 - biogeographical processes: invasion, succession, modification, resilience
 - adjustments in response to natural stress
 - the nature and rate of change which affects ecosystem functioning
 - human impacts (both positive and negative)
 - traditional and contemporary management practices.

PEOPLE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Possible Extended Response Questions

- Explain how biophysical and technological factors affect the nature of ONE economic activity in a global context.
- Explain how locational factors have influenced the character of an economic enterprise operating at a local scale.
- Explain how an economic activity you have studied has responded to the challenges of ecological sustainability.
- Explain the factors that have influenced the nature and spatial pattern of ONE economic activity.
- Analyse the environmental and social impacts of ONE economic activity.
- Analyse how an economic enterprise operating at a local scale can be affected by global changes
- Evaluate factors that have influenced the location of an economic enterprise operating at a local scale.

Global Economic Activity

Syllabus content

- a description of the nature, spatial patterns and future directions of ONE economic activity in a global context.
- factors explaining the nature, spatial patterns and future directions of the selected economic activity such as
 - biophysical: climate, soils, topography, site
 - ecological: sustainability and resource use
 - economic: competitive advantage, consumer demand, mobility of labour and capital
 - sociocultural: tradition, changing lifestyles, labour participation rates
 - organisational: ownership, decision making and control
 - technological: transportation, information transmission and flows, biotechnology
 - political: quotas, tariffs, compacts, agreements
- the environmental, social and economic impacts of the economic activity such as pollution, resource depletion, labour exploitation, cultural integration, provision of infrastructure, job creation, transfer pricing.

Introduction

An **economic activity** is defined as... **Characteristics** of the global economic activity of coffee include... The **spatial distribution** of coffee growing is detailed... On a global scale, the production and consumption of coffee... There are several **key factors that determine nature, spatial patterns and future directions**. They include **biophysical, ecological, economic, sociocultural, political, organisational and technological**. These will be examined in depth in this extended response.

Topic Sentence Examples:

- **Biophysical** factors that affect an economic activity on a global scale are... specific illustrative examples include...
- The nature and spatial distribution of coffee is also affected by **ecological** factors such as...
- **Economic** factors also impact coffee as a global economic activity, for example...
- **Social and cultural** factors that impact coffee include... more specifically they...
- **Political** factors also determine the nature and spatial patterns of coffee due to...
- Additionally, **organisational** factors such as contribute to coffee as a global economic activity. Examples include...
- Lastly, **technology** has had a profound impact on the production and consumption of coffee. Examples include...
- Conclusion.

Local Case Study – Economic Enterprise

Syllabus content

- a geographical study of an economic enterprise operating at a local scale. The case study should explore:
 - the nature of the economic enterprise
 - locational factors
 - ecological dimensions including environmental constraints, climate, and human impacts on the environment such as pollution and ecological sustainability
 - internal and external linkages and flows of people, goods, services and ideas
 - effects of global changes in the economic activity on the enterprise.

Introduction

Coffee is one of the world's most popular beverages on a global scale. As such, its popularity on a local scale is also increasing. An economic enterprise selling coffee that operates at a local scale is...

Topic Sentence examples:

- The **nature** of ... is (description, history operation times, company offers, specialty products, customer appeal, reasons for opening/operating)
- The **location** of Is determined by... this can be shown on the following map.
- **Environmental constraints** associated with this economic enterprise include... specific illustrative examples are...
- Similarly, there are also **impacts on the environment caused by humans**. These include... The impact of these actions are...
- This economic enterprise recognises the **importance of environmental sustainability** and thus implement the following procedures...
- To ensure the smooth operation of the economic enterprise, both **internal and external linkages** are essential. These include the following internal examples.... and similarly, the external examples are listed...
- The flow of **people (human capital) and goods, services and ideas** is demonstrated through...
- Finally, the changing nature of the **global economy is having impacts on the enterprise** operating at a local scale. This includes... and specific examples are...
- Conclusion.