

Practice 2

Evaluating extended argument: Essay 2

Use this checklist to evaluate the essay on pages 261–4. For more detail, see Chapter 11, page 197.

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| Checklist for critical analysis of extended arguments |
| Aspect | Yes/No/ mostly/ sort of | Comments/details/examples |
| **1** | Does the piece take a clear position on the topic/issues? |  |  |
| **2** | Does the piece address the core question it sets out to address (e.g. that is proposed by its title)? |  |  |
| **3** | Are good reasons presented to support the position adopted? |  |  |
| **4** | Does a clear argument (line of reasoning) run through the piece from start to finish? |  |  |
| **5** | Are points presented in the best order as a logical sequence? |  |  |
| **6** | Do main reasons/key points stand out clearly? |  |  |
| **7** | Does the evidence support the main reasons given and the conclusion? |  |  |
| **8** | Does the conclusion follow logically from the line of reasoning? |  |  |
| **9** | Is the argument internally consistent (i.e. the piece is free of contradictions)? |  |  |
| **10** | Is all material relevant to the topic/core question? (Has inessential detail and description been cut?) |  |  |
| **11** | Does the piece consider alternative perspectives in a fair, even-handed way? |  |  |
| **12** | Is the piece free of emotive language? (page 103) |  |  |
| **13** | Is it free of flawed reasoning? (pages 92–108) |  |  |
| **14** | Does the piece draw on good quality, reliable, relevant sources? (See pages 109–128.) |  |  |
| **15** | Are all sources cited throughout, and then full details provided as a list of references? |  |  |