

# Essay Cheat Sheet

## Understanding H2 Economics (9570)

Students are graded on both **breadth** and **depth** for each essay.

### Breadth (essay scope)

- 2 requirements
- 1 para per requirement
- Most questions take an **thesis/anti-thesis** approach

### Depth (econs theories)

- Draw relevant graphs
- *Note: explain graphs!!*
- Define relevant keywords
- Use economic terms

## Essay Planning

H2 students' biggest enemy is going **off-topic**. This will get your marks stuck at a 3-4 out of 10. **Analyse keywords** to avoid this.

### a. Command Words

- 'Explain' - no evaluation needed
- 'Discuss', 'Assess', 'Evaluate', 'Comment' - must evaluate

### b. Topical Keywords

- These words indicate the relevant topics (and sub-topics)
- 'Price', 'Quantity', 'Revenue', 'Expenditure' - Demand & Supply
- 'Decide', 'Factors', 'Rational', 'Consider' - Rational Decision Making
- 'Allocative efficiency', 'fairness', 'external costs' - Market Failure

### c. Contextual Keywords

- These words tell us where, when and what economic state the essay is in
- Use these words to **contextualise** and **beef up your evaluation**
- 'Singapore', 'during the pandemic', 'in 2008', 'in the financial crisis'

## Essay Writing

Once you've analysed the question, plan out the **2 points/requirements** in your content paragraph. To help you, use the PEEL format:

### a. Point

- This is your paragraph's first sentence. Make a clear statement and **summarise** your requirement in **one sentence**.

### b. Explanation

- Using **economic terms** and **keywords**, expand on what you stated in your point sentence.
- This portion should be roughly 3-4 sentences long. *Don't overwrite!*

### c. Example/Elaboration

- This part is mainly to achieve '**depth**'.
- Use **graphs**, **real world examples**, **diagrams** (e.g. circular flow of income diagram) to support your answer.
- Limit to one per requirement.

### d. Linking Sentence

- Summarise your paragraph in **one sentence**.

## Evaluation

For paper 2, evaluation is **only required** for **15 mark** questions. While some schools may still use 25 mark questions for practice, this has been out of the syllabus since 2023. There are 2 types of evaluation:

### In-Body

- At the **end of each paragraph**
- To evaluate, **rebut** your requirements through writing **limitations**.

### Summative

- At the **end of your essay**
- In this paragraph, **choose a stand** and **support it** through elaboration.

## Cambridge's Evaluation Rubrics

Mastering evaluation involves mastering the **rubrics** involved in marking:

Level	Marks	Requirements
E1	1	Basic Summary + Stand
E2	2-3	+ Analysis of SOME Points
E3	4-5	+ Analysis of ALL Points + Insights

## Blueprint to Score E3 for Evaluation



The only way to score **E3** is to provide **insights**:

### Time Period

This method is usually used to evaluate **policies**. Evaluate a policy's usefulness by whether they are more effective in the short or long run.

- **Short-run Policies** - *taxes, subsidies, regulations, bans, price floors*
- **Long-run Policies** - *education campaigns, supply-side policies*

### Context

This method uses question context and general economic knowledge to evaluate the **severity of problems/effectiveness of solutions**.

- **Country-specific Context**: *e.g. Education is effective in SG because we have a small population size.*
- **Economic State Context**: *e.g. During the pandemic, consumer confidence is likely to be low, which makes subsidies less effective.*

### Root Cause

This method is also usually used to evaluate **policies**. Evaluate a policy's usefulness by whether it solves the **root cause of the MF**.

- **Root Cause Solution** - *Retraining workers to reduce inequality*
- **Symptomatic Solution** - *Minimum wage to reduce inequality*

### Combined Effect

Sometimes, two policies can **complement each other**. Suggest using both policies together in your summative conclusion.

- *Education campaigns (long-run) & subsidies (short-run) to address underconsumption of vaccines due to imperfect information.*

## Steps of Evaluation

### 1. Determine Stand

- Figure out which of your points are easier to support.
- Write your **stand in your introduction**.

### 2. Craft Ev1 & Ev2

- These are the **in-body** evaluation segments.
- To evaluate, **explain limitations** to BOTH your thesis & anti-thesis.
- Ideally, these should be roughly 2-3 sentences at MAX.

### 3. Rebut Ev1

- In your **summative conclusion**, provide **insights** to *weaken Ev1* (thereby supporting your thesis - requirement 1)

### 4. Support Ev2

- In your **summative conclusion**, provide **insights** to *strengthen Ev2* (thereby weakening your anti-thesis - requirement 2)

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H2 ECONS

# Essay Evaluation