

### **Essay Questions for Social Science (including Humanities and History)**

1. *'The social sciences are not really sciences, because they do not construct their knowledge according to scientific methods.'* Discuss. (2008 A Levels)
2. Discuss critically the extent to which the investigator's opinions and beliefs can influence enquiries in the field of **either** history **or** science. (2009 A Levels)
3. Given its failure to predict economic crises, such as the 2008 downturn, economics does not deserve to be called a field of knowledge. Critically evaluate this view. (2011 A Levels)
4. The sciences are more successful than the humanities because they are based on empirical facts as opposed to opinions. Discuss. (2011 A Levels)
5. Critically assess the view that we can never know what happened in the past. (2012 A Levels)
6. *\*We will never know whether playing violent computer games causes people to be violent.'* Critically assess this view with reference to knowledge construction in social science. (2013 A Levels)
7. *\*Critically assess the view that good political decisions are the product of luck and not knowledge of what is for the best.* (2014 A Levels)
8. To what extent do we learn about the world through literature? (2014 A Levels)
9. History is written by the winners.' Critically assess this view. (2014 A Levels)
10. Critically discuss the claim that quantitative research is more significant than qualitative research in the social sciences. (2016 A Levels)
11. To what extent can society and behaviour be studied scientifically? (2017 A Levels)
12. Critically assess the view that we cannot know any historical facts. (2017 A Levels)
13. Humans are free therefore their behaviour cannot be explained through social science research.' Critically discuss this view. (2019 A Levels)
14. Assess the extent to which science gives us knowledge of the world. (2020 A Levels)
15. We see what we expect to see.' To what extent do human biases or prior expectations distort knowledge construction in the Social Sciences? (2021 A Levels)
16. Assess the extent to which the social sciences are genuinely scientific. (2022 A Levels)