

## Some Organizational Patterns

| Essay structure                   | Order of Importance or Significance/ Logical division  | 'Block' or 'Point-by-Point' (e.g. comparison/contrast essay)   |  | 'Block' or 'Point-by Point' (e.g. problem/solution essay)   | 'Block' or 'Point-by-Point' (e.g. argumentative/thesis-led essays)  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>               | Provide the context for the topic; describe the situation; identify key causes & effects   | Provide the context for the topic; identify the two concepts/theories/approaches to be compared; state purpose and thesis; identify key points to be compared.   |  | Provide the context for the topic/problem; describe the problem; state thesis; identify key aspects and solutions   | Provide the context for the topic; explain issues involved; establish thesis, state key arguments   |
| <b>BODY</b>                       | Explain one cause or effect in each supporting paragraph; if there are many causes group them into several main categories; organise causes or effects using <b>time or sequence order</b> or <b>order of importance/ significance</b> | <b>'Block' method</b><br>Discuss the similarities then the differences or vice versa.<br><b>NB: The order should reflect your thesis for the essay.</b> (e.g. If your thesis is that there are more similarities, then it would be logical to start with the differences first)                                | <b>'Point-by-Point'</b><br>In each paragraph, state the point for the basis of the comparison, compare the two approaches with regard to that point, (e.g. The point of comparison is <u>Use of Space</u> . You will explore the similarities and differences for that point). | <b>'Block' method</b><br>All problems, discussed in order of importance or significance, followed by the solutions.<br><br><b>'Point-by-Point'</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> problem and solution<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> problem and solution<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> problem and solution<br><br>(organise the problems in order of importance or significance). | <b>'Block' method</b><br>Block 1: Summary of other side's arguments followed by rebuttal or refutation. Block 2: Your counterarguments<br><br><b>'Point-by-Point'</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> argument, rebuttal and your counter argument 2 <sup>nd</sup> argument, rebuttal, and your counterarguments, and so on (see ' <b>Understanding Essay Types</b> ' for more on argumentative essays.) |
|                                   |  | <b>Which is better: block or point-by-point?</b><br>The point-by-point method is generally more suited to longer essays.   |  |   |   |
| <b>CONCLUSION</b>                 | Summarise key issues; restate the significance of the issue(s); point to implications for the future   | Identify key points for comparison; summarise the main similarities and differences; draw a conclusion about which is more significant or restate the thesis   |  | Summarise the solutions; draw a conclusion or make a prediction based on your suggestions.  | Summarise key arguments; restate thesis more strongly and in different words.   |
| <b>TRANSITIONS/ LINKING WORDS</b> | <b>Useful phrases:</b> The first cause; One cause is.; Another..; As a result; A is the result of B; A leads to B; consequently; A can be divided into ...There are three main causes:...  | <b>Useful phrases (comparison):</b> in the same way; similarly; compared to; both; is similar to; just as, have in common<br><b>Useful phrases (contrast):</b> however, although, nevertheless, unlike; although; on the other hand; whereas; in spite of, despite, on the contrary; differs from; in contrast |  | <b>Useful phrases:</b> The first; the best; another; one  | <b>Useful phrases:</b> One; another; perhaps the best known/notable/distinctive is... It is true that.... However,... It may be argued that...  |