

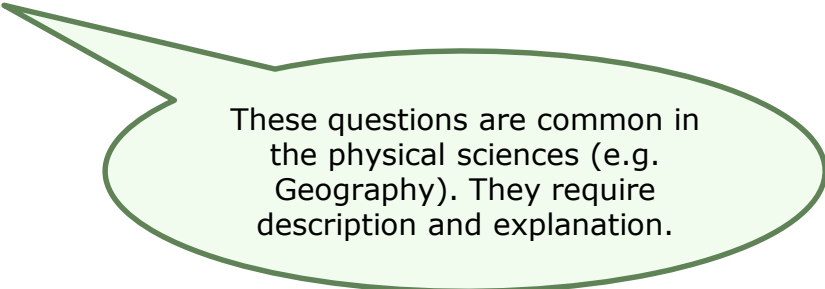
Types of Assignment Questions

Type 1

Questions that start with a question word

Examples

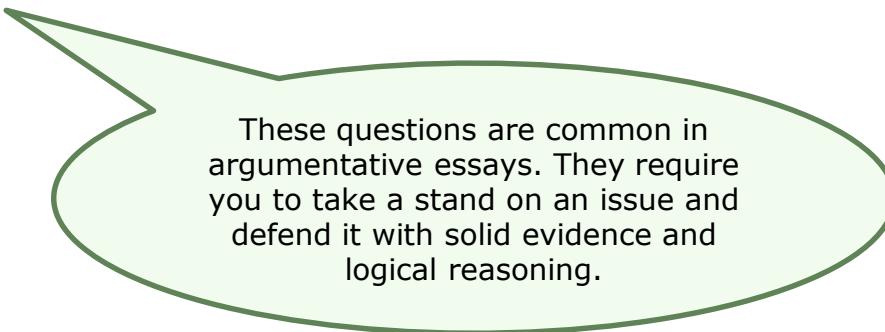
1. *What* are the problems of ...? *How* can they be resolved?



These questions are common in the physical sciences (e.g. Geography). They require description and explanation.

2. *How* relevant are the principles of ... to contemporary New Zealand society?

3. *Should* New Zealand become a republic?



These questions are common in argumentative essays. They require you to take a stand on an issue and defend it with solid evidence and logical reasoning.

Type 2

Questions that begin with a function word

Examples

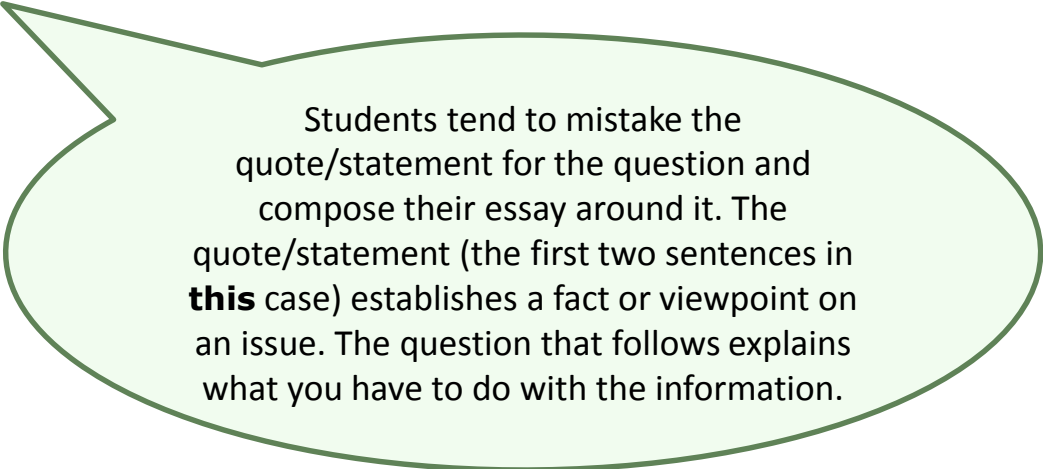
- 1. *Discuss*** the significance of the iPod on music consumption and the music retail industry.
- 2. *Briefly describe*** the status of state housing in New Zealand and ***critically review*** the changes since the passing of the Housing Act of 2001.

Type 3

Questions that begin with a quotation or statement, followed by a question

Example:

International society has long recognised the economic disparity between Northern and Southern Hemispheres. However, it has not been reduced. Why? What are the implications?



Students tend to mistake the quote/statement for the question and compose their essay around it. The quote/statement (the first two sentences in **this** case) establishes a fact or viewpoint on an issue. The question that follows explains what you have to do with the information.

Type 4

Questions with several parts

Examples:

- 1. Describe** an El Nino situation in terms of air circulation and sea surface temperatures in the Pacific region and **explain how** an El Nino situation compares with the normal pattern.
- 2. Briefly describe** the status of state housing in New Zealand and **critically review** the changes since the passing of the Housing Act of 2001.
- 3. What** is the value of goals in an organisation and **how** can they be?

The main problem with this question type is knowing how much to allocate to each part.

Hint: Generally, "how" questions and function words like "review" or "discuss" require a lengthier explanation and discussion, with examples or evidence.