

BSH STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE MARKING CRITERIA

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5
Content/answering the question	Failure to understand or	Failure to address	Adequate answer to the	Thorough answer	Comprehensive answer
	acknowledge question.	important aspects of the	question and covers main	covering most	with clear exceptional
	Very limited, and	question and favours to	aspects although	aspects of the	knowledge and
	seriously flawed,	answer 'own' question.	arguments and content	question.	understanding of issues
	knowledge and	Irrelevant points made.	do not always have clear	Knowledge and	relating to the question.
	understanding	Limited knowledge and	link to question.	understanding are	
	Question may have been	understanding with	Adequate knowledge and	sound.	
	Question may have been	significant errors and	understanding. May be		
	misunderstood.	omissions.	some errors and/or gaps.		
Engagement with literature and	Little evidence of any	Gaps in literature with	Some use of evidence but	Adequate	Excellent use and
use of relevant evidence	literature review or	minimal evidence	over-reliance on small	engagement with	evaluation of evidence,
	background reading.	presented. The evidence	number of sources.	literature with	extensive and well
	What is used reflects a	presented may be used	Tends to use review	different viewpoints	digested reading from
	very narrow range or is	inappropriately or	articles rather than	presented using	numerous different
	irrelevant and/or	incorrectly.	original sources. Evidence	relevant evidence.	sources. Original and up to
	misunderstood.	Arguments reliant on	not entirely up to date.	The evidence	date evidence used.
		unsupported assertion		included is relevant	Creative use of evidence
		or irrelevant material.	Relevance of some	to the essay and	to enhance the overall
		Tends to offer opinions	evidence presented is not	mostly up to date	essay.
		not backed up by	clearly demonstrated.	including original	
		evidence		articles.	
Interest and originality	No originality. Issues	Minimal originality but	Shows attempts at	Flair and originality	Creative and original
	covered are well known	most of the essay covers	original thinking. Some	of thought. New	thinking. Use of
	and have been discussed	issues that have been	new aspects of old topics	issues presented.	imagination and creativity
	in numerous other	covered elsewhere.	presented.	Reader engaged	to present a wide range of
	articles or forums.	Minimal interest to	Some interest to reader.	throughout.	views. New issues
	Does not keep interest of	reader.		-	presented which captures
	reader.		Interest in haematology is	Passion for	the mind of the reader.
		Minor interest in	clear. Some evidence of	haematology clear	
	No clear passion for	haematology as a	engagement with	from this essay.	Passion for haematology
	haematology and little	subject. Minimal	speciality.		clear from this truly
	evidence of engagement	engagement with the			engaging content.
	with the haematological	speciality.			
Critoria	workforce or patients.	2	2	0	
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Structure and organisation/quality of writing	Incoherent structure making it impossible to follow. Writing style inarticulate and difficult to understand. Presentation and formatting are poor and inconsistent.	Poor style and presentation. Underdeveloped or chaotic structure making it difficult to follow. Awkward writing style No clear concluding remarks.	Generally coherent structure and presentation. Adequate English style. Sections of essay unclear and sequencing could be improved to enhance flow of essay. Conclusion brief and fails to encompass important points of the essay. Overall presentation and presentation are adequate with consistent formatting.	Satisfactory structure and acceptable writing style. Contains clear introduction and conclusion. Professional presentation with consistent formatting.	Well organised and structured with engaging, fluent and articulate writing style. Flow of essay helps with understanding. Conclusion encompasses important points made during the essay and provides a summary analysis of the material Publication in medical journal appropriate.
Critical analysis	Lacking any attempt at analysis and critical engagement with issues, based on description or opinion.	Descriptive not analytical. Weak structure and arguments.	Adequate and generally relevant arguments. Some attempt at analysis but tendency to be descriptive rather than critical without discussion of issues although evidence of awareness of differing viewpoints	Critically appraises literature with evidence of analysis and reasoning.	Provides new perspectives in the analysis that have not been presented elsewhere.
Grammar/spelling/referencing	Significant and frequent errors of grammar and spelling. References non-existent or mostly irrelevant with inconsistent formatting.	Errors of sentence construction, punctuation and/or misuse of words. Formatting of references inconsistent.	Spelling and grammar acceptable but occasional mistakes indicating more care needed. Formatting of refences consistent but not precise.	Excellent use of English language except for rare spelling mistake or grammatical error. References are formatted appropriately and consistently.	Exemplary use of English language with no spelling or grammatical errors. References are formatted appropriately and consistently.