

Conservatism: Activities

Essay Questions (A01, A02, A03)

Construct full essays discussing the questions below.

1	Critically evaluate the assertion that conservatism is an ideology that always prioritises the welfare of society's upper classes.
2	To what extent does every conservative put pragmatism above any fundamental principle?
3	'We are all selfish, greedy and emotional.' Evaluate this conservative idea of human nature.
4	How much fundamental disagreement exists between the New Right's neo-liberal ideas and neo-conservative ideas?
5	Conservatism has barely influenced Welsh politics since extending the vote towards the end of the nineteenth century.' Discuss.
6	To what extent should realists be agreed with that conflict and war between countries cannot be avoided?

In preparing to draw up your essays, think carefully about the following points:

- i) Before starting to write, ensure that you have understood what the question is asking you to discuss. The best essays are those with clear focus and that only discuss material relevant to the question.
- ii) Take your time to carefully plan your essay. Consider which different points you believe need discussing and think carefully about the order in which these points should be discussed. This will ensure that your essay has a clear structure and therefore avoids unfortunate features such as repetition.
- iii) It is important that your essay presents relevant information, but you should also attempt to ensure that your essay is more than merely a descriptive piece. Each of the above essay questions requires you to discuss and analyse (note the use of terms such as 'evaluate' or 'to what extent'). As a result, your essay needs to weigh up different perspectives and arguments, as well as present information about them.
- iv) It is also important that your essay develops a clear argument in response to the question. Note that all questions above require you in some way to develop a specific perspective. The best essays will gradually develop this argument or perspective during the work, not wait to announce it succinctly in the closing paragraph.