



T206, Energy for a Sustainable Future

Introductions and Conclusions

When answering your Part B questions in your TMAs, you will be expected to include an introduction and conclusion. The mark scheme for all TMA part B questions includes marks for the introduction and conclusion.

In many cases, the introduction and conclusion are the weakest part of an extended piece of work. A good introduction and conclusion are important to an extended answer as they help to give shape to your work.

Introduction

In general terms, your introduction needs to do the following

1. Set the scene i.e. give some background to your answer – what is the problem you are investigating and why?
2. Make a statement of intent – what do you intend to cover in your answer?
3. Give an indication of the structure of your answer.

Look carefully at the question. It usually gives you a clear guide as to what is expected in your answer and can provide a useful basis for your introduction. However, you should try to avoid simply restating the question in your own words.

Conclusion

The conclusion should be a summing up of the major points made in your answer. It is also useful to link it to your introduction and indicate that you have done what you said you would in your answer. Also in your conclusion you might indicate “where next”. In brief, your conclusion should

1. sum up key points made.
2. be based on body of discussion - avoid introducing new material in the conclusion.
3. link to your introduction – did you address what you said you would in the introduction and what did you find?
4. Possibly, look forward as well – identify aspects that need further investigation.

Remember, the conclusion is a summing up of what you have already said, so you should not be introducing new material or new arguments into your conclusion. If you do, then you need to look back at the main body of your answer to see where you can revise it to introduce that material.