

STRATEGIES FOR WRITING ESSAY EXAMS

READ THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY!

BUDGET YOUR TIME FOR EACH QUESTION DEPENDING ON POINT VALUE!

MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION BEING ASKED:

- Read the question carefully
- Circle or underline key words (e.g. compare, evaluate, justify, etc.)
- Put the question into your own words and then compare this with the original question to make sure the meaning is the same

ORGANIZE YOUR ANSWER BEFORE WRITING:

- Jot down (brainstorm) key ideas or points
- Arrange ideas in logical order (with most important points first) by numbering them or grouping them in categories
- Sketch out a quick outline in the exam booklet
- Start by writing an introduction to your answer
 - Rephrase the question into a statement
 - Question: In what ways is the painting of Manet influenced by Goya?
 - Intro: "Manet's painting is influenced by Goya in at least 3 ways."

SUPPORT YOUR IDEAS WITH SPECIFIC DETAILS OR EXAMPLES:

- Pretend you are writing for an intelligent but uninformed reader who isn't familiar with the course, rather than for the expert teacher

MAKE YOUR ANSWER EASY TO READ:

- Write legibly on every other line in pen
- Leave space at the end of an answer in case you want to add more later

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE TIME:

- If you see that you will run out of time before completing your answer, write your remaining ideas in point form and/or refer the teacher to your outline in the exam booklet

PROOFREAD YOUR ANSWERS:

- Save 10 - 15 minutes at the end of the exam to reread all your answers
 - Correct missing words and obvious misspellings.