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**Level: L3**

**Module: CWP**

**LECTURE 7: Answering Essay Questions with ‘identify’ and ‘outline’**

**1. Identify**

Essay questions that require us to ‘identify’ something in relation to a research topic require us to simply determine what key points to be addressed and **describe** the main ideas in a short and coherent way.

This question also requires a selective use of your knowledge; this means that you apply bits of your knowledge to the context or the situation described in the question.

* *When identifying* ***a person,*** *some of these might need to be mentioned:*

1. The country or region where he/she lived
2. The important events he/she was involved in, or the achievements that made him/her famous
3. His/her religion or belief system if that is relevant, that is, if religion or belief system has to do with what made the person famous.
4. The time when he or she lived (This does not always mean mentioning specific dates; mentioning wars and other events that the person was involved in, and approximate times when the wars took place, may be sufficient).

***Sample :***In an essay, identify the Irish novelist ‘James Joyce’.

### Who is James Joyce ?

**James Joyce**, in full **James Augustine Aloysius Joyce**, (born on February 2nd, 1882, [Dublin](https://www.britannica.com/place/Dublin), Ireland and died on January 13th, 1941, in [Zürich](https://www.britannica.com/place/Zurich), Switzerland).

### What was James Joyce’s family like? And where did he live/study?

Joyce, the eldest of 10 children in his family to survive infancy, was sent at age six to Clongowes Wood College, a Jesuit boarding school that has been described as “the Eton of Ireland.” But his father was not the man to stay [affluent](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/affluent) for long; he drank, neglected his affairs, and borrowed money from his office, and his family sank deeper and deeper into poverty. Joyce did not return to Clongowes in 1891; instead he stayed at home for the next two years and tried to educate himself, asking his mother to check his work. In April 1893, he and his brother Stanislaus were admitted, without fees, to Belvedere College, a Jesuit [grammar school](https://www.britannica.com/topic/grammar-school-British-education) in Dublin. Joyce did well there academically. He left, however, under a cloud, as it was thought (correctly) that he had lost his Roman Catholic faith.

He entered University College, Dublin, which was then staffed by Jesuit priests. There, he studied languages and reserved his energies for extracurricular activities, reading widely - particularly in books not recommended by the Jesuits—and taking an active part in the college’s Literary and Historical Society. Greatly admiring [Henrik Ibsen](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Henrik-Ibsen), he learned Dano-Norwegian to read the original and had an article, “Ibsen’s New Drama”—a review of the [play](https://www.britannica.com/art/dramatic-literature)[*When We Dead Awaken*](https://www.britannica.com/topic/When-We-Dead-Awaken) - published in the London Fortnightly Review in 1900 just after his 18th birthday. This early success confirmed Joyce in his resolution to become a writer and persuaded his family, friends, and teachers that the resolution was justified. In October 1901 he published an [essay](https://www.britannica.com/art/essay), “The Day of the Rabblement,” attacking the Irish Literary Theatre (later the [Abbey Theatre](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Abbey-Theatre), in Dublin) for catering to popular taste.

Joyce was leading a dissolute life at this time but worked sufficiently hard to pass his final examinations, [matriculating](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/matriculating) with “second-class honours in Latin” and obtaining the degree of B.A. on October 31, 1902. He wrote verses and experimented with short prose passages that he called “epiphanies,” a word that Joyce used to describe his accounts of moments when the real truth about some person or object was revealed.

Recalled home in April 1903 because his mother was dying, he tried various occupations, including teaching, and lived at various addresses, including the Martello Tower at Sandycove, which later became a museum. He had begun writing a lengthy naturalistic [novel](https://www.britannica.com/art/novel), Stephen Hero, based on the events of his own life, when in 1904 George Russell offered £1 each for some simple short stories with an Irish background to appear in a farmers’ magazine, The Irish Homestead. In response, Joyce began writing the stories published as [*Dubliners*](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Dubliners) (1914). Three stories - “The Sisters,” “Eveline,” and “After the Race” - had appeared under the pseudonym [Stephen Dedalus](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Stephen-Dedalus) before the editor decided that Joyce’s work was not suitable for his readers. Meanwhile, Joyce had met Nora Barnacle in June 1904; and persuaded her to leave [Ireland](https://www.britannica.com/place/Ireland) with him, although he refused, on principle, to go through a ceremony of marriage. They left Dublin together in October 1904.

### What were James Joyce’s most important works? Or What is James Joyce famous for?

An Irish novelist noted for his experimental use of language and exploration of new literary methods in such large works of fiction as [*Ulysses*](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ulysses-novel-by-Joyce) (1922) and [*Finnegans Wake*](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Finnegans-Wake) (1939). In 1905, he began to plan a new story, [“The Dead.”](https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Dead-story-by-Joyce) His studies in European [literature](https://www.britannica.com/art/literature) had interested him in both the [Symbolists](https://www.britannica.com/art/Symbolism-literary-and-artistic-movement) and the [realists](https://www.britannica.com/art/realism-art) of the second half of the 19th century; his work began to show a synthesis of these two rival movements. He decided that Stephen Hero lacked artistic control and form and rewrote it as “a work in five chapters” under a title - [*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*](https://www.britannica.com/topic/A-Portrait-of-the-Artist-as-a-Young-Man) - intended to direct attention to its focus upon the central figure.In 1909, he visited Ireland twice to try to publish Dubliners and set up a chain of Irish cinemas. In 1915,he worked on the early chapters of Ulysses. In March 1918, the American Little Review began to publish episodes from Ulysses, continuing until the work was banned in December 1920. An autobiographical novel, A Portrait of the Artist traces the [intellectual](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/intellectual) and [emotional development](https://www.britannica.com/science/emotional-development) of a young man named [Stephen Dedalus](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Stephen-Dedalus) and ends with his decision to leave Dublin for Paris to devote his life to art. In [Paris](https://www.britannica.com/place/Paris), Joyce worked on [*Finnegans Wake*](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Finnegans-Wake), the title of which was kept secret, the [novel](https://www.britannica.com/art/novel) being known simply as “Work in Progress” until it was published in its entirety in May 1939.

### Adapted from: James Joyce: Irish author. Retrieved from :

### <https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-Joyce>

* *When* ***identifying an event****, some of these things may need to be mentioned:*

1. When the event occurred (the more exact you can be, the better it is acceptable)
2. Where the event occurred (specify the exact place, if possible),
3. The people or countries involved,
4. What the event included or involved,
5. Why it happened, if that information is available (for example, when identifying a war, you should say why the war was fought, if that is known).

* *When* ***identifying a place****, some of these things may need to be mentioned:*

1. Where the place is (or was) located,
2. Why the place is famous (for example, mention important events that happened there, and if possible, when these events occurred).

* *When* ***identifying a thing,*** *some of these points may need to be mentioned:*

1. What it is or was (a document, an invention, an idea, etc.)
2. What it includes or involves or does,
3. When it appeared or when it became important (again, you do not need to mention exact years if you can situate the thing among major events),
4. Why it is famous or historically important.

**Example**: Identify *trench warfare*.

**A good answer**: A type of combat where soldiers fired on their enemies while sheltering themselves in long fortified ditches (called "trenches") dug in the ground, often for weeks at a time. This is historically significant because it became one of the main forms of combat in World War One.

**A bad answer:**   A way soldiers fought in World War One. *(The reason why this answer is not good is that there were many other ways soldiers fought in World War One: air combat, traditional cavalry and infantry charges, use of early automobiles and submarines equipped with weapons, etc.* This answer does not explain what kind of fighting trench warfare is.)

Adopted from:

<https://sites.google.com/site/worldhistorymrswalker/home/hints-for-answering-identification-questions>

**2. Outline**

An **outline** is a summary of all the available information about a topic in a logical order, and should explain the relationship between each point. An **outline** should just be the main points, without any details. A question of this type usually requires only a short answer, but in a systematic and coherent way.

**3. Structuring an ‘Outline’ Essay**

**1/** Write your **introduction** as usual with a clear thesis statement at the end.

**2/**For the **Body paragraph**, provide a summary of all the available information about a given topic in a logical order. The main points, without much details, will be welcomed, but in a short, coherent essay form.

**3/**Mark the end of your essay by a **concluding paragraph** involving a summary of the main points referred to in the body paragraph.

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**Task one**

**Topic:** Identify Martin Luther King in an essay

Use the following outline to develop your essay

**Introductory paragraph**

Introduce the person. Write a complete paragraph that introduces him.

**Body paragraphs:** Answer the following questions to write your body paragraphs

Who is Martin Luther King?

When and where was he born?

Where did he live and study?

What is his religion and what beliefs did he have?

What made him famous?

**Provide a brief concluding paragraph summing up the given details.**

**Task two**

**Topic:** Identify the place “Pearl Harbour”

Finding answers to the following questions will enable you to write an essay in which a place is identified.

1. Where is the place located?
2. Why is the place famous? (mention the attack that happened there).

Note: For more information, you may use the following link:

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/pearl-harbor>

**Task three**

**Topic:** Outline the strategies you might use in the exam room to plan and write your answers with less stress and anxiety.

In fact, you have been given many options for your outline. Choose some of them and generate ideas.

1. **Write your introduction with a clear thesis statement at the end.**
2. **Body paragraph**

Choose from these strategies the main points that better fit your essay :

* The day of the exam, it is important to ensure that you are physically and mentally prepared for the challenge ahead.
* The day before the exam, it is important that you do what is right for you, but make sure you get some time to relax.
* Waiting to go into the exam room can be an anxiety building time.
* Once at your table, organise it, relax by taking few deep breaths and listen carefully to any instructions.
* To start, read the instructions carefully on the exam paper.
* Check that these questions are what you were expecting and that you have allocated your time correctly.
* Writing a plan before helps ensure that your writing has a structure and also helps to stimulate the memory and give you a sense of control. Even though you are writing under time pressure, you should still think about the best structure to communicate your ideas.
* **What to do if your mind goes blank.** If it does, put your pen down, take a deep breath, sit back and relax for a moment.
* Managing your anxiety and time will help you to think clearly. **If you are running out of time,** don't panic.

1. **Conclusion:** Summarize the main points without any details.

**References**

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