



IB ESS – 9 Mark Essay Planner

LEVEL 7 ACCELERATOR · SYSTEMS THINKING · EVS PERSPECTIVES · PAPER 1 & 2

WHAT MAKES A 9/9 ESS ESSAY

Systems thinking: Always frame your answer in terms of inputs, outputs, stores, flows and feedback loops. **EVS perspectives:** Explicitly reference at least one contrasting environmental value system (technocentric vs ecocentric). **Evidence:** Named examples with data. **Evaluation:** Reach a clear judgement — don't just list.

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE SYSTEMS (EVS) — REFERENCE AT LEAST ONE

WHICH EVS PERSPECTIVE IS RELEVANT TO YOUR QUESTION?

ECOCENTRIC

Nature has intrinsic value independent of human use.
Deep ecology. Prioritises ecosystem integrity. (e.g. Deep Green activists, Arne Næss)

TECHNOCENTRIC

Technology can solve environmental problems. Human ingenuity > natural limits. (e.g. IPCC mitigation tech, carbon capture, GM crops)

ANTHROPOCENTRIC

Humans are central; environment valued for human benefit. Sustainable use rather than preservation. (e.g. sustainable development, UNEP)

QUESTION

WRITE QUESTION — NOTE COMMAND TERM, KEY CONCEPT AND EVS ANGLE

[9 marks]

SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK — IDENTIFY BEFORE WRITING

System Analysis

COMPLETE BEFORE WRITING — FRAMES ALL PARAGRAPHS

INPUTS

OUTPUTS / FLOWS

FEEDBACK LOOPS

EQUILIBRIUM / CHANGE

INTRODUCTION

DEFINE KEY CONCEPT(S) + SYSTEM

STATE EVS PERSPECTIVE + ARGUMENT

BODY PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph 1 – Main Argument

POINT · SYSTEMS EVIDENCE · EXPLANATION · EVS LINK

POINT

NAMED EXAMPLE + DATA

SYSTEMS EXPLANATION

EVS / LINK TO Q

Paragraph 2 – Counter / Second Argument

POINT · SYSTEMS EVIDENCE · EXPLANATION · EVS LINK

POINT

NAMED EXAMPLE + DATA

SYSTEMS EXPLANATION

EVS / LINK TO Q

Paragraph 3 – Additional Factor / Scale

POINT · SYSTEMS EVIDENCE · EXPLANATION · EVS LINK

POINT

NAMED EXAMPLE + DATA

SYSTEMS EXPLANATION

EVS / LINK TO Q

CONCLUSION — EVALUATION + EVS REFLECTION

OVERALL JUDGEMENT + MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR

EVS REFLECTION — HOW DOES PERSPECTIVE SHAPE ANSWER?

MARK SCHEME BANDS

1-3

Basic statements. Little systems thinking. No EVS reference. Vague examples.

4-6

Some systems language. One EVS mentioned. Named example but underdeveloped explanation.

7-9

Clear systems framework. Explicit EVS comparison. Precise named data. Clear evaluative conclusion.