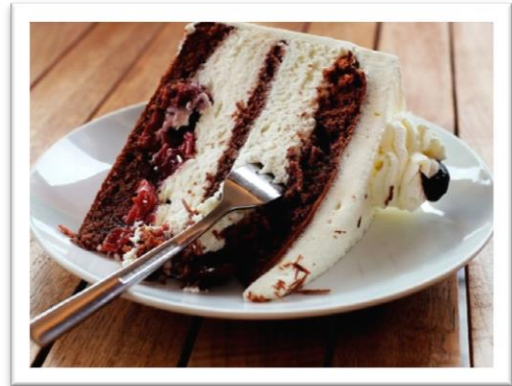


Exam essay recipe for success

Ingredients:

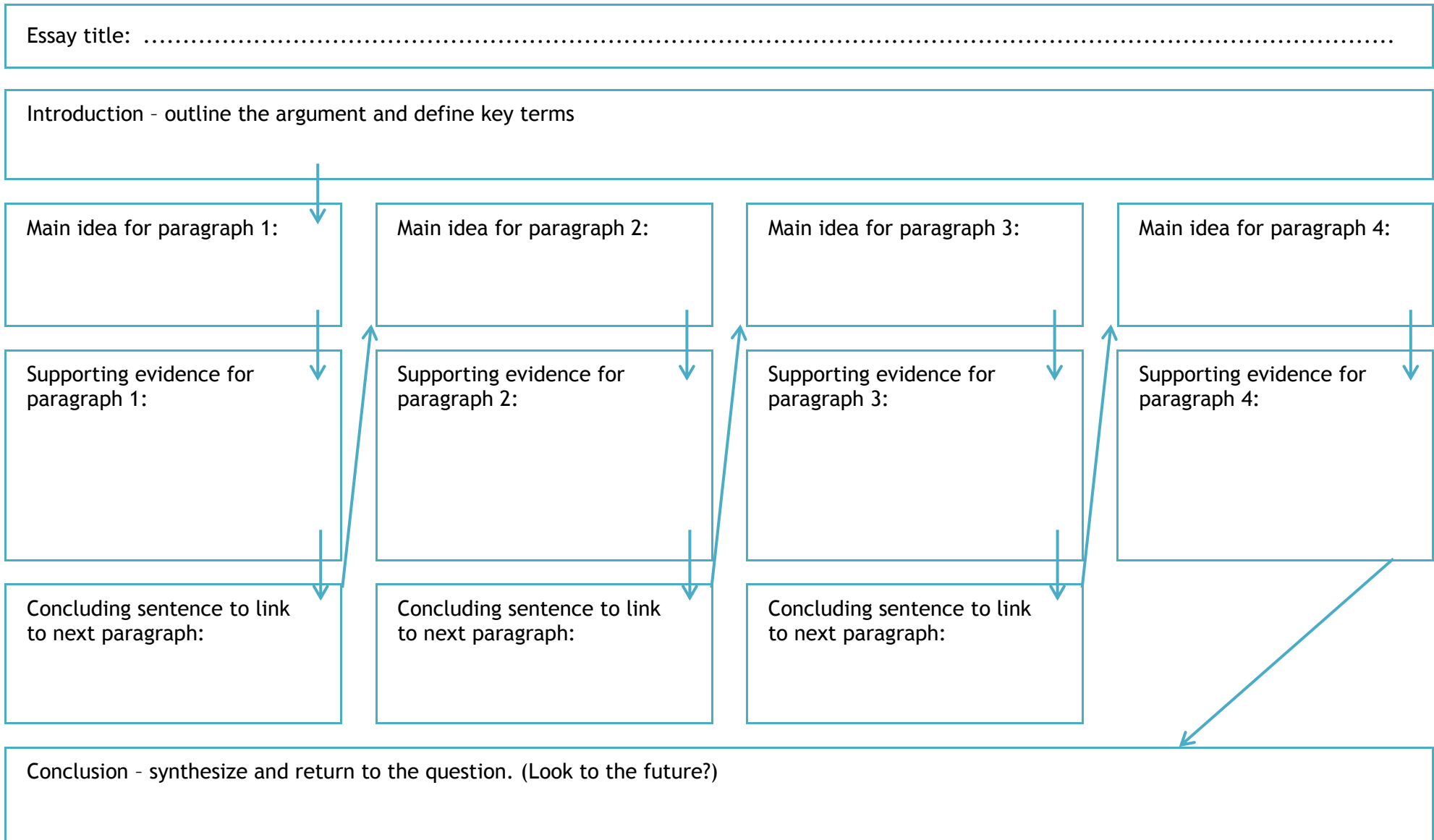
- a clear head
- case study knowledge
- a good grasp of geographical theory
- good geographical vocabulary.



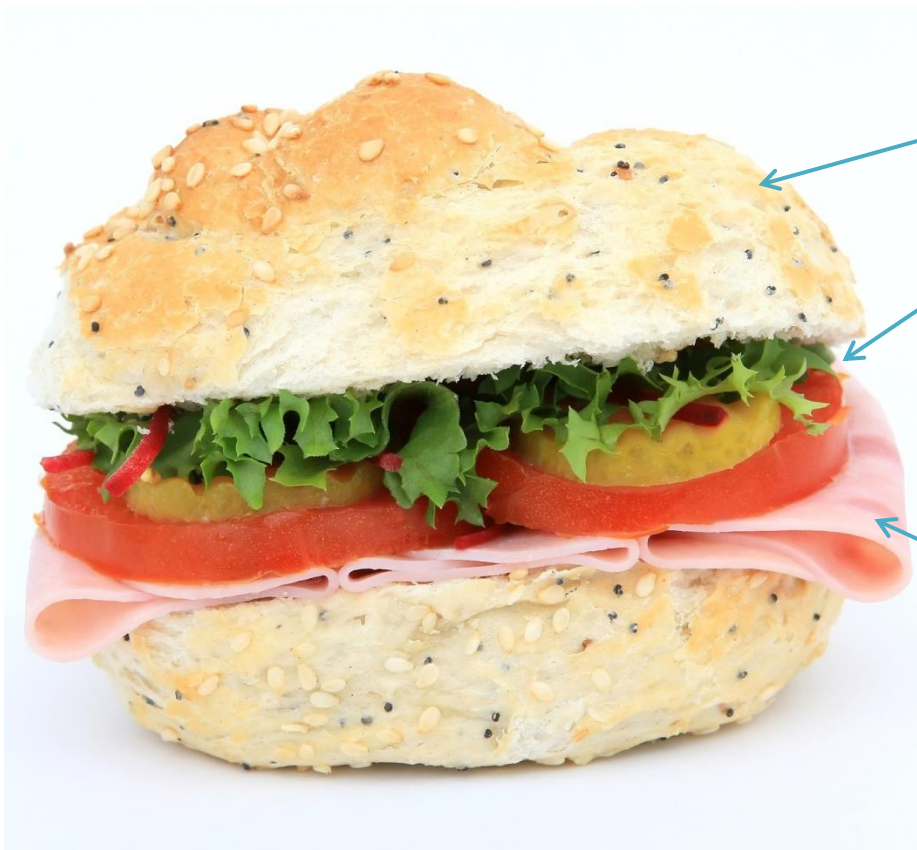
Instructions:

1. Underline command words and key phrases in the question.
2. 'Decode' the question. What does the examiner wish you to do?
3. Have a thought shower on the topic, using the command words and key phrases as a guide. Also, list the relevant case studies.
4. Identify the main themes that emerge in your thought shower that address the question. These themes may indicate the points for your discussion.
5. Decide upon a conclusion (think about where the answer is going).
6. Write a short introduction that informs the examiner of the argument you will follow and perhaps define a key term.
7. Limit the discussion to between two and four paragraphs.
8. Each paragraph should have:
 - **POINT:** an introductory sentence that outlines the theme for that paragraph.
 - **EVIDENCE** and **EXPLANATION:** your point is developed using explanation and illustrated with selected case study evidence.
 - **LINKS:** each paragraph should explicitly link to the essay question and link into the next paragraph.
9. Conclusion: synthesize your main points (bringing them together into a statement) and return to the essay question, then answer it or make a judgment. You could also look to the future.

Essay planning flow diagram



The 'essay sandwich.'



Introduction: outline the argument and define key terms.

Discussion: each paragraph should have a point, evidence, explanation and link (PEEL). Two to four substantial paragraphs to follow the argument laid out in the introduction. Include references to examples and case studies, but only to support the answer.

Conclusion: return to the question ('close the circle'). Synthesize the main points and possibly look to the future.