

# Pre session polls

What level of study are you?

- Access
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Postgraduate

What would you consider is your main area of study?

- Arts
- Languages (English & other)
- Social sciences
- Business and law
- Science
- Engineering or technology
- Maths
- Health sciences
- Education
- Sports
- OTHER

Have you been to any student hub live online events before?

- Yes last year
- Yes this year
- Yes other
- No (but have listened to one or more recording)
- No (didn't have time)
- No (wasn't aware of before now)

# What are student hub live online sessions?

- All student hub live sessions are non modular and focus on skills relevant to study at university level
- We (Karen and Isabella) are both tutors and share these sessions between us
- All polls are anonymous to other participants but the chat box will have your logged in name associated with your comments
- Please be aware that all online sessions are recorded. These recordings are then available on a public facing website (student hub live can be accessed by anyone who registers on our site whether a current student or not)



# Initial polls

What is your main reason for coming along this evening?

# Understanding your assessment question

# What are you making?



# What do we mean by unpacking?

- It's:
  - Reading the question
  - Noting the key words
  - Understanding what the question is actually asking

# Reading the question

- Reading and answering the actual question is crucial when tackling any essay
  - Read out loud
  - Underline key words
  - Make the title into a question

# Making a question - poll

What question could you make out of each of these titles? (please answer in the short answer poll available)

- Title 1 – write an essay on the history of chocolate
- Title 2 – write an essay about walking a dog



# Don't change the topic question

- If you do phrase as a question to help you understand make sure you aren't changing the overall topic.

# Poll about reading the question

If you are asked to discuss the history of chocolate making select which of the following should not be done:

- Say where chocolate comes from
- Say who invented chocolate
- Say how chocolate is made
- Say where cocoa is grown

# Did anyone miss the not?

Whilst the intention is never to trick or catch people out it is very important that you read ALL the words there and don't assume you have read what it says correctly.

# Process words

- These are the instructions that tell you what you need to do:
  - Describe
  - Explain
  - Critically analyse
- We strongly recommend the studenthome > study skills resources here - <https://help.open.ac.uk/understanding-the-question>

# Considering material

- What information are you going to need to find out? What does the question assume in terms of knowledge?
  - Think definitions
  - Think facts
  - Think what might need to be included
- Back to our history of chocolate question!

## Question poll

- What kinds of information do you think you will need to find out to answer the question **write an essay on the history of chocolate?**

*(It doesn't matter if you don't know any of the factual content – it is about knowing how to approach a question)*

## Our ideas:

- What is chocolate
- Does everyone mean the same thing by 'chocolate'
- When was it first produced / made
- Are there key dates to mention?
- Are there key people to mention?

# Don't worry!

- Unpacking the question involves coming up with things that you might need to find out and then considering the material is what that might be
- You aren't expected to know everything before you even start!



# Discussion activity

- There will be two parts to the activity:
  1. Discuss with the group how you will go about approaching your first TMA question, thinking about process words and what you might need to think about
  2. Compile as a group 3 unanswered questions you have about how to understand and interpret TMA questions. We can then discuss them

***You will all have different topics so it isn't about the specific content but HOW you approach questions overall***

# Useful points for breakouts

- We suggest you use the first couple of minutes to introduce yourselves and get used to the room. Choose a volunteer to keep the discussion on track and feed back to the main room
- We will send you a reminder when it is time to move on to the task (you can start before if you wish 😊)
- There will be 13 minutes for the breakouts overall – we'll send regular reminders to let you know how long you have got left

**Remember to check the number of the room you are in (shows at top of chat pod as “chat x breakout y”) in case of connection issues and for bringing back information.**



## Breakout activity

1. Discuss with the group how you will go about approaching your first TMA question, thinking about process words and what you might need to think about
2. Compile as a group any other questions you have about how to understand and interpret TMA questions. Please make a note of these ready to share in the main room

***You will all have different topics so it isn't about the specific content but HOW you approach questions overall***

Don't worry if you don't all agree on the precise approach – it is about sharing ideas and exploring different ways of working

# So....

- What can people share from their sessions?

## Final polls

What do you feel is the main thing you will take away from this evening?

What are you going to do as a result of this evening's session?

Are there any other topics that you would like us to cover in future student hub live sessions?

Do please book for the upcoming sessions in our student hub live skills based Adobe Connect session:

## **Academic writing 101**

17-10 from 19.00-20.00 and 20.30-21.30

## **Critical thinking and writing – going beneath the surface**

24-10 20.30-21.30 (*FULLY BOOKED*)

## **Broadcast session 22-10 10.00-13.30 – The deconstructed essay**

Past student hub live online sessions [here](#)

Visit us at

<http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>

Send us feedback at

[studenthub@open.ac.uk](mailto:studenthub@open.ac.uk)

View past (live) recordings on

[www.youtube.com/thestudenthublive](http://www.youtube.com/thestudenthublive)

