

# ESSAY TECHNIQUE

P – point – Make a point in relation to the question – argument driven... ‘some people agree would agree because X’

A – analyse – give evidence and explanation and unpick the info around that point

C – criticise – engage with the point (not the title, but the point of the paragraph) – ‘a strength of this point is’ ‘a weakness of this point is’

E – evaluate – draw the paragraph together using the wording of the question

**Cats could be said to be better than dogs because having them on your lap is nicer, but it's even nicer to have a rabbit on your lap and here's why rabbits are good - this is a pretty typical approach for candidates and doing that will have a greater impact on the overall mark than before because of the 40/60% AO2.**

**Cats are better than dogs because having them on your lap is nicer because it's more comfortable. Cats tend to be smaller than dogs and their fur is softer because it's made of ..... Scholar X says that a cat on your lap is ..... but this a weak approach as shown by scholars who say ..... Their view is that ..... Ultimately this suggests that sitting on your lap is not a useful measure when assessing cats and dogs.**

*So –it's a good paragraph - a point is raised and then engaged with academically - that's going to pick up the marks. To take it bit by bit:*

**Cats are better than dogs because having them on your lap is nicer because it's more comfortable. - raising a point, engaging directly with the question.**

**Cats tend to be smaller than dogs and their fur is softer because it's made of ..... - this picks up marks for Knowledge and understanding - needs to be longer, of course!**

**Scholar X says that a cat on your lap is .... but this a weak approach as shown by scholars who say ..... Their view is ..... - scholarly discussion - doesn't need to refer to specific scholars - doesn't even really need to say 'scholars who say'- could say 'this is a weak approach because .....'**

**Ultimately this suggests that sitting on your lap is not a useful measure when assessing cats and dogs - bring it back to the question - keeping focused.**