

**General**

In an introduction, you give a general idea of the topic, (general sentences) then say how the essay will develop (thesis statement)

**General sentences**

An introduction begins with some general sentences on the topic, based on key words in the title and your research. You could use a quotation, a statistic, historical or contemporary background, or even a comment on human behaviour.

In this example, the writer gives some **historical background<sup>1</sup>**, then refers to **key words in the title<sup>2</sup>**.

**Possible essay development**

An introduction ends with a thesis statement. This is very particular. It is a sentence/group of sentences where you describe the main sections of your essay; when and where you are going to look at etc.

In this example, the essay could develop *in lots of different ways*, as these very short essay plans show.

So your approach/organisation depends on what reading you have done<sup>3</sup>. The thesis statement must say what this approach is.

**Possible thesis statements**

Essay A would focus on countries, essay B on businesses, and essay C on society. This means the body paragraphs, (and therefore the topic sentences), of each essay would be different.

Also, a thesis statement often say where and when you are looking at, if it is important, as in essay B.

All this shows why the thesis sentence is so important – it is like a map for the reader, telling them what your particular essay will do, one out of many possibilities. For this reason, you often write it after the main body.

**Essay title**

→ **Has the Euro been successful<sup>2</sup>?**

**General sentences**

In January 2002, the Euro was finally introduced<sup>1</sup> across Europe as the common currency of 12 member states. It was a hugely ambitious project, and though it is too early to say for definite if it will be a success or not<sup>2</sup>, it is nevertheless useful to judge its performance so far.....

**Possible essay development**

*Essay plan A*  
**By country<sup>3</sup>**

- Germany
- France
- Portugal

*Essay plan B*  
**By business type<sup>3</sup>**

- Retail
- Service
- Manufacturing

*Essay plan C*  
**By society<sup>3</sup>**

- Individuals
- Governments

**Possible thesis statement**

A .....▼ This essay will make this judgement in terms of how different countries have been affected, looking first at Germany, then at France, and finally at Portugal.

B .....▼ This performance can depend on the nature of the business. Hence this essay will examine three different sectors, those of retail, the service industry and manufacturing, and confine itself to only the German economy.

C .....▼ To do this, this essay will look at the Euro in terms of its impact of individuals, and then in terms of its impact on governments.

### Thesis statement language

In thesis statements, you often use certain types of language;

#### Future tenses

You usually use the future to introduce the different sections of your essay. Some form of 'will' is the most common;

##### Future simple<sup>1</sup>

= will + verb

##### Future continuous<sup>2</sup>

= will + be + -ing

##### Future passive<sup>3</sup>

= will + be + past participle

Don't use 'going to' as it is a little informal.

#### Sequence

Sequence language is useful too;

##### Listing words<sup>4</sup>

= first/ly, second/ly, next, then, last/ly, finally etc

##### Phrases<sup>5</sup>

= in terms of/with reference to those of, from..through to etc

Be careful with the grammar! Use these phrases after the main sentence, and before a noun/group of nouns<sup>a</sup>.

##### -ing verbs<sup>6</sup> (participles)

= looking at/examining etc

Be careful with the grammar! You often use -ing verbs after a preposition like 'by', 'after', or added to a main sentence, either at the beginning or the end.

#### Verbs

As in these examples, use a range of verbs; 'define', 'examine', 'look at', etc. Don't use 'say' and 'tell' as they can seem a little informal.

#### Be 'parallel'

A thesis statement is really a list. Each part of the list needs to be grammatically the same eg all nouns, all sentences etc. If you mix nouns or -ing verbs with sentences<sup>7</sup>, then you are not being parallel.

#### See also; grammar units

Future /passive/participles

### Future tenses

1. This essay will make<sup>1</sup> this judgement ...
2. Hence this report will examine<sup>1</sup> three sectors...
3. To do this, this paper will look at<sup>1</sup> the Euro...
4. In answering this question, I will be examining<sup>2</sup>...
5. First, this essay will be looking at<sup>2</sup>...
6. Hence, three sectors will be examined<sup>3</sup>...
7. The Euro will be looked at<sup>3</sup> both...

### Sequence

1. This essay will make this judgement, looking firstly<sup>4</sup> at France, then<sup>4</sup> at Germany, and finally<sup>4</sup> at Portugal.
2. Firstly<sup>4</sup>, I will analyse the causes, next<sup>4</sup> I will suggest possible solutions, and lastly<sup>4</sup> I will detail recent developments.
3. This essay will look at the Euro in terms of/with reference to<sup>5</sup> its impact on individuals<sup>a</sup>, and then in terms of/with reference to<sup>5</sup> its impact on governments<sup>a</sup>.
4. Hence three sectors will be looked at, those of<sup>5</sup> retail, the service industry and manufacturing<sup>a</sup>.
5. This essay will look at some of this debate, from<sup>5</sup> Maslow's original theory of need<sup>a</sup>, through to<sup>5</sup> modern ideas on work design<sup>a</sup>.
6. This essay will make this judgement, looking<sup>6</sup> first at Germany, then at France.
7. This will be done as follows; by first defining<sup>6</sup> the key terms, next by examining<sup>6</sup> the people involved.
8. After defining<sup>6</sup> the key terms, this essay will continue by examining<sup>6</sup> the people involved.

### Be 'parallel'

This essay will attempt to answer this question by first giving<sup>7</sup> some background, and then it will detail<sup>7</sup> a case study. **O**

This essay will attempt to answer this question by first giving some background, and then detailing a case study. **II**

This essay will attempt to answer this question; it will first give some background, and will then detail a case study. **II**