

Spelling and Improvement Code

What do the comments on my work mean?

_____	or	Sp	in the margin	spelling mistake
○	or	P	in the margin	punctuation mistake
~~~~~?				grammar mistake / meaning unclear
^				word missing
//				new paragraph needed

### For example:

- Sp "Turnip wants us to do a project," Helen announced // "Turnip?" repeated Uncle Albert.
- "Mr Turner – the science teacher. We have to choose a topic – a scientific one. Then," she added with an air of importance, we have to research it..."
- "Research it!?" exclaimed Uncle Albert, looking as though he were going to burst out laughing
- P "yes" said Helen indignantly. "We have to research it – and write up the results in a folder."
- P Sulkily she kicked a stone – hard. She was wearing trainers, so it hurt, but she didnt let on. She was very fond of her uncle, but he could be so annoying at times. She hoped one day to be ^ famous scientist like him. That's why she had hoped he would of been pleased at her news. She now wished she had stayed at home and watched television.

## Literacy Support: Writing a KS3 and GCSE History Essay

With reference to the question 'How far was the First World War responsible for the collapse of Tsarist rule? Explain your answer.'

<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>Focus on the question and engage with what it is asking you to do. Identify the main points that you are going to analyse in order to answer the question. If you are feeling brave, you could identify what the main argument of the essay is going to be.</p> <p><i>'There are many explanations for the collapse of Tsarist rule in March 1917. Before the First World War even started, there were many problems present in Russia, for example, poor living and working conditions, poor communications, lack of industrial development and the existence of an outdated autocracy which was out of touch with its people. This essay will argue that the outbreak of World War I exacerbated these existing problems as well as introducing new ones and therefore ultimately led to the collapse of Tsarism.'</i></p>
<p><b>You should aim to write 3 or 4 PEEE paragraphs</b></p>	
<p><b>Point</b></p>	<p>Identify your point. This must be clear and relate directly to the question. You could prioritise factors by starting with 'the most important reason was....'</p> <p><i>'An important factor responsible for the collapse of Tsarist rule was the poor living and working conditions existing in Russia at the start of the Twentieth Century.'</i></p>
<p><b>Evidence</b></p>	<p>Give real facts and evidence to support the point that you have just made.</p> <p><i>'Russia was keen to expand its industry during the reign of Nicholas II, and so the government encouraged peasants to migrate to large cities. The living conditions of these workers were horrific, with overcrowding, terrible food, disease and alcoholism being commonplace. There were no government regulations on child labour, hours, safety or education. There was also low pay, no limits on working hours and brutal discipline.'</i></p> <p>(You can repeat the evidence and explain sections several times in a paragraph to reinforce your point with different examples.)</p>
<p><b>Explain</b></p>	<p>Explain the importance of the evidence that you have given in relation to the point that you made at the start of the paragraph.</p> <p><i>'This meant that many workers had turned against the regime before the war even started, showing that the Tsar had little support. The concentration of workers in urban areas also meant that it was easier for organisations who opposed the Tsar to spread their messages amongst them and encourage widespread opposition to grow.'</i></p> <p>(You can repeat the evidence and explain sections several time in a paragraph to reinforce you point with different examples.)</p>
<p><b>Evaluate</b></p>	<p>Evaluate the significance of the point, evidence and explanation that you have given in relation to the question – make sure that you link directly back to the question.</p> <p><i>'This shows that poor living and working conditions played a significant part in the collapse of the Tsarist regime.'</i></p>
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p>	<p>Does it make a clear <b>judgement?</b> (a sentence of two, with clear evidence). Does it compare the <b>importance of all factors?</b> Does it justify the judgement it comes to by stating <b>why</b> the other two factors are less important? Does it <b>answer the question?</b></p> <p><i>'Overall, it can be seen that the First World War acted as a catalyst in the collapse of the Tsarist regime. It acted upon the pre-existing problems in Russia and made them worse by increasing discontent, losing any remaining support left for the Tsar and allowing conditions for revolution to develop. The war dealt a fatal and irrecoverable blow to an already outdated and unsupported regime.'</i></p>

## Literacy Support: Essay Writing in English

### Introduction:

If you had to answer the question in one sentence, what would you say? This answer should form the argument or view that runs throughout your essay. Make sure you include key words from the question to show that you're focussed.

e.g. In *Ralph*, Golding presents a character who represents democracy and fairness, but who, like the human society the writer observed, is also marked by failure and inadequacy.

<b>T</b> opic Sentence	Include the <b>writer's name</b> and use key words from the question (or synonyms thereof) e.g. <b>Golding</b> presents Ralph as a leader chosen for his surface appeal rather than skill. The topic sentence should give a view of the text that you will go on to prove with evidence. This view should fit within the view set out in your introduction.
<b>E</b> vidence	Evidence has to support the view in your topic sentence. Make sure your evidence is incorporated fluently into your writing. e.g. The initial description of him as 'the boy with fair hair'...
<b>A</b> nalysis	Analyse something <b>specific</b> in your evidence, such as a single word or a linguistic technique such as simile. What are the connotations or impressions created? e.g. Ralph's <b>hair colour</b> has connotations of angels or cherubs, presenting him initially as an innocent, even holy child, perhaps the saviour of the island.
<b>L</b> ink	Link back to the <b>question</b> , link to another piece of <b>evidence</b> , link to <b>context</b> , link to a <b>comparison</b> , link to a <b>different opinion</b> , or link to your <b>next paragraph</b> idea. What you link to will depend on the essay question and assessment objectives. e.g. Furthermore, his leadership is conferred because he is in possession of the conch, ...

### Conclusion:

Move forward from your introduction: don't repeat what you have already said but condense your views into a final judgement. Excellent conclusions often include a pithy, relevant quotation that you have not yet given.

e.g. Ultimately, readers admire Ralph's attempts to bring stability and civilisation to the island; the real sadness of the novel is that his efforts are futile because the civilisation he clings to 'knew nothing of him and was in ruins'.

## Homework Guidelines

### **Why do I have homework?**

There are many purposes of homework, including: to enable you to practise and develop skills already learned in the classroom, to help you understand thoroughly the work you have done and to provide you with an opportunity for independent study and research.

Homework also helps your teachers to see how much progress you are making and for some pieces of work they will record your marks and grades so that they can monitor your performance throughout the year.

### **How much homework will I have each night?**

Some form of homework will be set each day; as you get older the amount you will be given will increase. Normally in Y7 you will have one hour of work each evening, in Y8 and Y9 between one and a quarter hours and one and a half hours and by the time you reach Y11 you will be expected to do about two hours each evening.

If you find that your homework is taking you much longer than expected you should talk to your subject teacher or form tutor about this, especially if it is posing a problem.

### **How can I organise myself?**

You will be given a homework timetable at the beginning of the year. From this you will be able to see on which nights you will have homework from certain subjects. The timetable also gives you an indication of how long the homework will take. You should write down in your student planner each piece of homework that you are given. This will be monitored by your form tutor if they feel that you need some advice and guidance in this area.

### **What advice is there for homework?**

- Ask for clarification/support if unsure with homework
- Take responsibility for when to do homework – use homework timetables (avoid it being done last minute)
- Go to a teacher before the lesson if homework is taking too long or you are stuck
- Think about the purpose of the homework before you start
- Use the student planner properly to help with organisation of homework
- Spend the required time on your homework in a quiet space

### **For internet research**

- Use reputable websites and sources - ask your teachers for examples of good sites to use in their subject
- Put the information into your own words - this avoids plagiarism. It also allows you to focus more on the task in hand, rather than just copying and pasting lots of information
- Use more than one resource to cross-reference what has been found out.
- Use references if needed (e.g. make a list of websites that have been used and show your teacher).