

EXAMPLE

Assignment 2: Unessay

Associated Learning Outcomes: This assignment meets learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Weighting – 40%

Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate a deep and thorough understanding of Scotland's regional geography through the lens of a particular topic. As such, your task is to demonstrate how your geographical understanding has been enhanced through your research and how this can be used to tackle contemporary issues related to the geography of Scotland. You should consider geographical issues from both a human and physical lens in relation to your theme of choice.

Question to be addressed:

For this assignment you are required to produce a piece of work that answers the following question.

“The regional geography of Scotland is a function of the interplay between the physical landscape, its people, political arena, environment, culture, economy and resources. Examine the characteristics of Scotland’s geography through an analysis of a particular topic and that seeks to integrate physical and human geographies and uses multiple sources of information.”

Some examples may include: Scotland's tourism industry; the importance of oil to Scotland's economy; climate change and renewable energy; Scotland's agricultural sector; Brexit: now what for Scotland's geography; geology and mining; and many, many more... Think about areas of geography you are interested in and then see how they relate to the Scottish context.

Assignment format

An unessay is a pedagogical tool for learning that allows students to choose a submission format that meets their own needs rather than those of the instructor. As students, you are often the best person to decide how to communicate your learning most effectively. So...you may complete this assignment in any format you wish as long as it meets the individual criteria set out below. I have provided some examples of how this assignment may be created but ultimately it is up to you. If you choose a format that is not listed here, please check with me before you start to ensure that it is acceptable.

Traditional essay

You have been asked to submit a paper on the regional geography of Scotland from your lens of study to an academic journal. Your paper should be directed towards an academic audience and demonstrate a thorough understanding of one aspect of Scotland's geography. Your paper should include the following:

- Your paper should include a title page, table of contents, list of figures, list of tables (these together make up the preface material), introduction, discussion, conclusion, and list of references. Page numbers should also be included. Use subheadings to organize your paper.
- Your paper should be about 12 pages in length (1.5 line spacing)
- Your figures should be integrated directly into your paper and include figure captions that are numbered and describe what is shown in the figure.

- References must be included for information obtained from outside sources. Use the Chicago Scientific reference style with in-text citations and a Works Cited page, not footnotes. Remember to directly quote or paraphrase information obtained from other sources.
- Use Calibri 11point font, 1.5 line spacing and 1inch margins.
- Your paper should be saved in PDF format.

Ted Talk

You are a leading expert in the geographical study of Scotland and more specifically your topic of choice. You have been invited to give a 15-20minute Ted Talk about this topic that demonstrates a thorough understanding and that is relatable to a general audience. It should have the following expectations:

- Your Ted Talk should be recorded and submitted as an MP4 and be 15-20minutes in length.
- There is no need to cite sources within your Ted Talk but a reference list must be submitted. Please submit this in Chicago Scientific format as a PDF file alongside your video file.
- Watch some Ted Talk videos for inspiration.
- You may use any software you like to create your Ted Talk but the final version must be in MP4 format. Some easy tools include My Media/Kaltura Capture (available via Blackboard) that can be used to record your TedTalk.

Podcast

You are a leading expert in the geographical study of Scotland and more specifically your topic of choice. You have been invited as a guest on a podcast on geographical issues. The hosts have asked you to talk about the regional geography of Scotland from your lens of study. The purpose of your podcast is to demonstrate a thorough understanding of one aspect of Scotland's geography that is relatable to a general audience. It should have the following expectations:

- Your podcast should be 15-20minutes in length and should be recorded
- Submit your podcast in MP4 format.
- There is no need to cite sources within your podcast but you must include a reference list that lists the resources that were used to support the submission. Please submit this in Chicago Scientific format as a PDF file alongside your audio file.
- You can use any software you wish to create your podcast but some easy tools include My Media/Kaltura Capture (available via Blackboard) or even voice memos on your phone. Please ask if you need assistance.

Academic poster presentation

You are attending the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting and have submitted an abstract to present a poster at the conference. Your poster presentation will document the regional geography of Scotland from the lens of a particular topic. The purpose of a poster presentation is to visually represent the information to an academic audience; participants will not likely look at a poster that is mostly text. Your poster should be submitted with the following expectations:

- Your poster should be sized to 90cm by 120cm and can be completed in landscape or portrait orientation.
- It should be submitted in PDF format. You can use any software to create your poster such as PowerPoint, Canva or similar package. **Note you do not need to print your poster.**
- Your poster should include in text citations (these can be shown by superscripted ^{numbers}) and the reference list should be placed directly on the poster. Note that you can use a smaller font for your reference list.
- Your poster should include a short abstract that summarizes the main points of your information, an introduction, subsections highlighting various discussion points, visuals to highlight ideas, and a conclusion.
- Figures/images should have captions and citations.

Recorded lecture (Narrated PowerPoint)

You have been asked to give a lecture for another Geography course on your topic of expertise as it relates to the geography of Scotland. As this course is being delivered in a fully online and asynchronous mode of delivery, the course instructor has asked you to create a narrated PowerPoint presentation and/or a recorded lecture that can be placed inside the course Blackboard page. It should meet these expectations:

- Your recorded lecture should be 15-20minutes in length.
- It should be submitted in MP4.
- Your recorded lecture can be created in a software of your choice and then saved as an MP4 file. Ask me if you need advice on how to do this. One way to do this is to use My Media/Kaltura Capture screen capture (available via Blackboard) or to create a narrated PowerPoint file and export as a MP4 file. Ask if you have any questions.
- Your lecture should include citations and a full reference list in Chicago Scientific style should be included at the end of the lecture. A separate reference list in PDF format should be submitted alongside the lecture file.

Important assignment dates:

To ensure you have adequate feedback to produce your best work, this assignment is scaffolded with 3 components. The outline and final submission are required elements; the rough draft is optional:

Assignment component	Due Date
A. Outline	30 September at 4pm
B. Rough draft*	21 October at 4pm
C. Final paper	11 November at 4pm

*Completion of the rough draft of your paper is optional. If you choose to submit a draft, I will provide feedback. You can then take that feedback to improve your final submission. Feedback will be returned in 7 days. If you choose to submit only a final piece of work, no interim feedback will be provided

Outline expectations:

To allow me to provide useful feedback on your initial ideas, a detailed outline is required. The more complete the outline, the more feedback I can provide. Your outline should include the following information:

- Topic to be covered in unessay
- Tentative hypothesis statement
- Annotated reference list of at least 5 sources that you will use to support your unessay
- Type of unessay format planned
- Outline of unessay – what sections it will include, structure etc.

Assignment 2 Process Letter

As with all assignments in this course, you will self-assess your work and provide a rationale for a particular grade for this unessay assignment. Your process letter must include a letter grade (D to A+) for the work together with a rationale related to the questions posed below. The rationale will provide the evidence for the self-assessed grade. To help you determine a grade for your work I have attached 2 rubrics: one for the traditional essay and another for the creative formats.

Questions to ponder:

1. Why did you pick this particular topic? Why does it interest you?
2. What are your key takeaways about the topic now that its finished?

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3. What steps did you follow to complete this assignment? Where were the sticky points? What went smoothly?
4. What did you learn through the process of completing this assignment? How did the scaffolding of this assignment help you to complete the work?
5. What is your self-assessed grade for the work?
6. Present evidence to support your grade. This might be the completed rubric, a list of additional sources used but not cited, sections from the unessay itself, relevant course work connections etc.

You may submit your process letter in written form (as a PDF file), as an audio or video file (in MP4 format) or even as a Powerpoint presentation. It is up to you. Make sure you answer the questions, self-assess your work and provide evidence that supports the grade.

I will read your process letter after I have provided feedback on your work. If there is a difference between my impressions of your work and your self-assessment, I will ask you to reassess and resubmit your process letter. Remember your process letter should be an honest and authentic assessment of your work.

GEOG 433CC - ASSIGNMENT 2 RUBRIC A: TRADITIONAL ESSAY

Level/Criteria	BEGINNING (D)	DEVELOPING (C- to C+)	ACCOMPLISHING (B- to B+)	SUPERIOR (A-/A)	EXEMPLARY (A+)
<i>Theoretical discussion of key concepts</i>	Poor coverage of all key concepts	Limited coverage of key concepts	Good coverage of key topics although more detailed discussion needed throughout	Thorough coverage of key topics; some additional details needed	Extensive coverage of all key topics and thorough and accurate discussion
<i>Discussion of interrelationships between factors defining the region's geography</i>	Poor attempt to discuss interrelationships; only attempted in 1 or 2 cases	Limited integration of ideas and information; brief discussion shows limited understanding of how these topics are interconnected etc.	Good integration of key concepts to address question; a more detailed discussion is needed	Thorough integration of information; an explicit section on integration would strengthen this	Extensive discussion of geographic relationships; clear discussion of how various topics are interconnected
<i>Use of visuals to support & illustrate ideas (maps, graphs, tables, etc.)</i>	Very limited number of visuals (<3); all from web sources; no personal visuals used	Limited number of visuals used (3-5 visuals); no personal visuals used; may include visuals from academic sources	Good use of visuals; visuals >5); visuals taken from a limited set of published sources; may include personal visuals	Thorough use of visuals to support arguments (>7); visuals are from many published sources; use of personal visuals	Excellent use of visuals; wide variety of types & sources used; personal diagrams included;
<i>Appropriate choice of reference material to support arguments</i>	Very limited use of reference material; mostly from web sources; very limited use of peer-reviewed materials; 5-10 sources used	Limited used of reference materials; mostly web info with some peer-reviewed materials; 10-11 sources	Good use of reference material; emphasis on web sources; limited use of peer-reviewed materials; 12-15 sources used	Thorough use of reference material; greater use of peer-reviewed sources needed; 15-20 sources used	Extensive use of reference material from a wide range of peer-reviewed sources; >20 sources used
<i>Professional submission (appropriate writing style, spelling & grammar, paraphrasing, use of citation style, preface material)</i>	Major problems exist in the writing; assistance of the Academic Success Centre is encouraged; preface material is missing.	Weak writing style; concerns in multiple areas ; careful revision needed throughout; some preface material is missing or formatted incorrectly.	Competent writing ability in all areas; some revision needed; at a level expected for this course; one or two elements are preface formatted incorrectly.	Strong writing skills demonstrated; minor issues noted; at or above level expected for this course; minor issues with preface material	Paper shows advanced writing ability; exceeds level expected for this course; no issues with preface material.

GEOG 433CC ASSIGNMENT 2 RUBRIC B: CREATIVE FORMAT

Level/Criteria	BEGINNING (D)	DEVELOPING (C- to C+)	ACCOMPLISHING (B- to B+)	SUPERIOR (A-/A)	EXEMPLARY (A+)
<i>Theoretical discussion of key concepts</i>	Poor coverage of all key concepts (most required elements missing)	Limited coverage of key concepts (some required elements missing)	Good coverage of key topics although more detailed discussion needed throughout	Thorough coverage of key topics; some additional details needed	Extensive coverage of all key topics and thorough and accurate discussion
<i>Discussion of interrelationships between factors defining the region's geography</i>	Poor attempt to discuss interrelationships; only attempted in 1 or 2 cases	Limited integration of ideas and information; brief discussion shows limited understanding of how these topics are interconnected etc.	Good integration of key topics to address question; a more detailed discussion is needed	Thorough integration of information; an explicit section on integration would strengthen this	Extensive discussion of geographic relationships; clear discussion of how various topics are interconnected
<i>Use of visuals to support & illustrate ideas (maps, graphs, tables, etc.)</i>	Very limited number of visuals (<3); all from web sources; no personal visuals used	Limited number of visuals used (3-5 visuals); no personal visuals used; may include visuals from academic sources	Good use of visuals; visuals >5); visuals taken from a limited set of published sources; may include personal visuals	Thorough use of visuals to support arguments (>7); visuals are from many published sources; use of personal visuals	Excellent use of visuals; wide variety of types & sources used; personal diagrams included;
<i>Appropriate choice of reference material to support arguments</i>	Very limited use of reference material; mostly from web sources; very limited use of peer-reviewed materials; 5-10 sources used	Limited used of reference materials; mostly web info with some peer-reviewed materials; 10-11 sources	Good use of reference material; emphasis on web sources; limited use of peer-reviewed materials; 12-15 sources used	Thorough use of reference material; greater use of peer-reviewed sources needed; 15-20 sources used	Extensive use of reference material from a wide range of peer-reviewed sources; >20 sources used
<i>Creative format</i>	Creative format lacks clarity and depth. Relevance issues throughout.	Adequate use of creative format. Clarity, depth and relevance issues noted in places.	Good use of creative format. Good demonstration of theoretical concepts. Some clarification and depth issues noted.	Strong use of creative format. Strong demonstration of theoretical concepts. All elements addressed in informative ways. Some minor clarification and depth issues.	Excellent use of creative format. Excellent demonstration of theoretical concepts. Elements addressed in meaningful and significant ways.
<i>Meeting the needs of the audience</i>	Submission does not meet the needs of the audience. Use of language is inappropriate for the audience. Visuals not explained.		Meets the needs of the audience. Most of the language used is appropriate for the language. Supporting visuals are mostly at a level suitable for the audience		Exceeds needs of the audience through choice of language, supporting visuals are explained in appropriate way for the audience, appropriate use of jargon