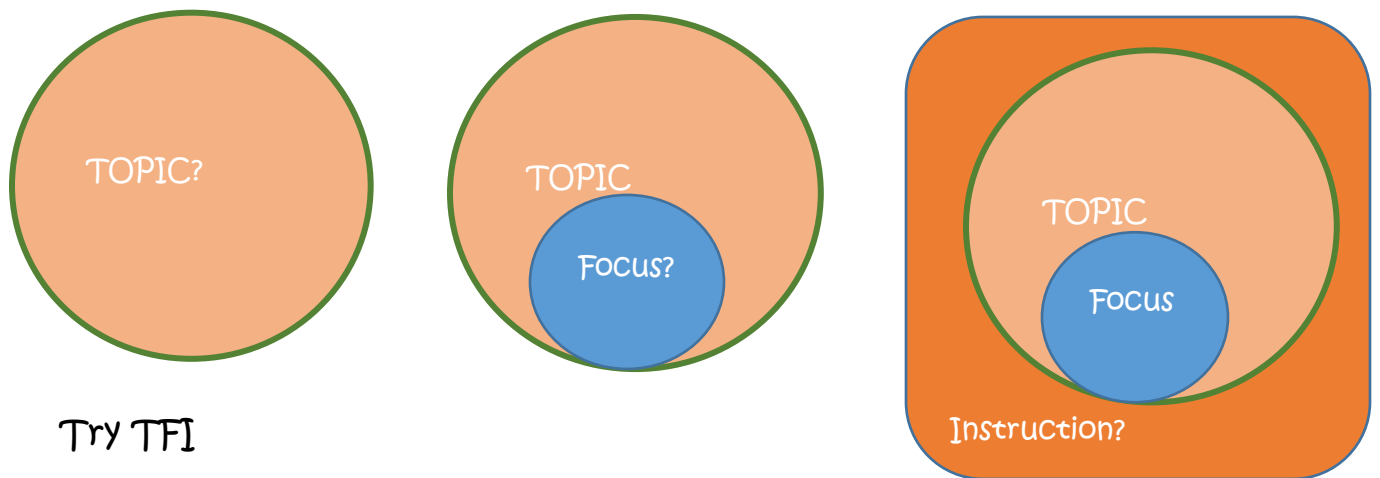


Topic Focus Instruction

Use TFI to unlock essay questions by asking:

- What is the **topic** area of the question?
- What does the question ask me to **focus** on within this topic?
- How should I do this – what is/are the **instruction** word(s)?

Think TFI



Try TFI

Topic Focus Instruction

- **Discuss** the flora of the Carboniferous period **with reference** to the evolution of major plant phyla.
- **Outline** the various forms of coastal pollution and **examine** the impact of **one type** on the **quality of coastal waters and beaches** and **discuss methods** which might be used to **monitor and regulate** its occurrence.
- **Describe** the ways in which **Ed Dorn** and/or **Gary Snyder** employ **both material and spiritual attitudes** to America in their poetry

Try it for yourself:

- Critically evaluate the perspective that globalisation is creating one homogenous global culture and destroying cultural diversity.

How can TFI improve your work?

Many students do not achieve top marks because they have not properly interpreted and answered the question that was set. Different students' interpretations of a question (and the grade they achieved) are shown below.

Example question:

Compare and contrast the consequences of blindness and deafness for language development.

- ❖ Write down everything you know about blindness, deafness, child development and language development. Do not reach a justified conclusion.

(Third class answer – on topic, but no focus, did not follow instructions)

- ❖ List some of the features of blindness and deafness. List some of the consequences for development including a few for language development.

(Lower second class (2:2) answer- on topic, some focus on relevant ideas – but did not follow the instructions)

- ❖ Identify the consequences of blindness and deafness for language development. Compare and contrast these consequences.

(Upper second class (2:1) answer – on topic, well focused, followed instructions)

- ❖ Identify the consequences of blindness and deafness for language development. Compare and contrast these consequences, drawing conclusions about the nature of language development, with reference to how your conclusions sit with theories of language development.

(First class answer – on topic, highly focused on both topic and instructions)

NB First class answers usually require the student to go the extra mile – by showing what the ideas mean in the light of prevailing theories/opinions, and give evidence of extra reading beyond the lectures.