**Introductions**

An introduction must cover the following things if it is to be of any use:

* Definition of key political terms in the questions
* An idea of the factors you plan to discuss in your essay, that cover both sides
* A hint at the direction you will be arguing

This is also known as the 3D’s – Define, Discuss, Direction. Roughly, the definition should only be a sentence, the discussion should be two or three sentences and the direction should be a sentence. As you develop your own style, you’ll move away from this simple formula into something a bit more flowing!

You can also include the name of some examples you will be referencing; these should be nothing more than names, you’ll explain them in the text. Equally, a really good introduction will begin to explore the **context** – why is this questions relevant today?

***Example:*** Is the UK still a representative democracy?

A representative democracy, drawn from the Burkean model, requires citizens to vote for someone to represent them in government. Crucially, those elected can use their conscience to decide on matters, and are not delegates. The UK maintains key aspects of this, with local MPs being elected to represent their constituents. More recently, representative democracy has been advanced further through devolution. Nonetheless, a still unelected House of Lords and an increasing use of referendums are actually more in line with elitist and direct democracy, especially when such landmark decisions as Brexit are undertaken in this manner. Despite this, the challenges to representative democracy are largely the same as they have always been, and the day-to-day governing of the UK is largely undertaken by representative. (123 words)

***Task: Could you highlight the above introduction to show*** The 3 D’s? Examples? Context?

**Conclusions**

Conclusions must draw on all factors in your essay, pull them together to show common themes and **make a judgment**, explaining how you reached that judgment.

***Example***

There are clearly a number of developing challenges to representative democracy in the UK with Brexit often cited as one of the most significant. However, this aside, most challenges remain the same as they have always been and therefore UK representative democracy is in no greater peril than it ever was. Indeed, the development of devolution has given the people a greater number of representatives that they are able to call upon, and both houses of Parliament are clearly becoming more functionally representative. With a continually growing population, not only does representative democracy seem to be secure it the UK, it remains an absolute necessity with other forms of democracy simply not being workable with a population of 60 million people. (121 words)

***See Firefly, ‘Exemplar Work’ for more examples!***