

HOW TO WRITE EXAMINATION PAPERS IN LAW

1. Analyze the question(s) put before you
 - Is it an essay?
 - Are there different specific questions?
 - Is it a story in which you have to identify the specific questions yourself?
2. Don't start writing immediately, you have 4 hours
3. Make an outline where you develop a structure for your answer
 - You may spend at least an hour on this exercise if you think through all relevant matters and put it into the outline before you start writing the final text
4. Concentrate on questions that fall within what is being asked for
5. Try to remember or develop different problems that the relevant rules are intended or supposed to solve
6. In the presentation
 - Distinguish between main rules and detailed rules
 - Develop and use examples
7. Try to avoid plainly repeating what is said in the books and lectures; what we want to see is an analytical lawyer who can analyze and develop *problems* and present *materials*; *opinions* and *reasons*
8. Make the presentation of the law source based
 - Identify explicitly the relevant phrase or expression in a statute or treaty
 - Identify the relevant part of a case which decides the question or supports your contention
 - Comment on the sources and the interpretations you make, don't just paraphrase the wording of a provision
9. Divide your answers into distinct sections; you may also use separate titles for each section
10. You should know the key expressions in English, but the marking will not concentrate on English grammar