

**Hebrew & Jewish Studies**

Departmental Style Sheet for Essays

[Introduction 2](#_Toc145425969)

[How to format essays 2](#_Toc145425970)

[How to submit essays 2](#_Toc145425971)

[How to write essays 3](#_Toc145425972)

[Introduction 3](#_Toc145425973)

[Summary (Literature Review) 3](#_Toc145425974)

[Analysis 3](#_Toc145425975)

[Critique 3](#_Toc145425976)

[Conclusion 4](#_Toc145425977)

[How to present quotes 4](#_Toc145425978)

[How to present footnotes or endnotes 4](#_Toc145425979)

[Book 4](#_Toc145425980)

[Article or chapter in a multi-authored edited book 5](#_Toc145425981)

[Article in a scholarly journal 5](#_Toc145425982)

[Citations from online resources 5](#_Toc145425983)

[An encyclopaedia entry 6](#_Toc145425984)

[Article in a newspaper 6](#_Toc145425985)

[Citations from Biblical, Rabbinic and Classical Literature 6](#_Toc145425986)

[Bible 6](#_Toc145425987)

[Mishnah 6](#_Toc145425988)

[Tosefta 6](#_Toc145425989)

[Talmuds and Zohar 7](#_Toc145425990)

[Talmuds 7](#_Toc145425991)

[How to present the bibliography 7](#_Toc145425992)

[A single-authored book 7](#_Toc145425993)

[A single chapter or article in a multi-authored, edited book 8](#_Toc145425994)

[An edited book 8](#_Toc145425995)

[An article in a journal 8](#_Toc145425996)

[An encyclopaedia entry 8](#_Toc145425997)

[An article in a newspaper 8](#_Toc145425998)

[An online resource 9](#_Toc145425999)

[Transliteration 9](#_Toc145426000)

[Plagiarism 9](#_Toc145426001)

[Penalties 9](#_Toc145426002)

[Extenuating Circumstances 10](#_Toc145426003)

[Late Submission Penalties 10](#_Toc145426004)

[Word Counts 11](#_Toc145426005)

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# Introduction

The essay is the most common method of assessment in the department, whether it is submitted in fulfilment of coursework requirement or written under examination conditions. Writing an essay is how students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of an academic subject and the ability to follow instructions, analyse information, then organise and present it lucidly in the form of a digest, report, or critical review.

The acquisition of essay writing skills is a gradual process which parallels the student's progress through the degree programme. These techniques should become second nature to all students in the Department. Those who have not thoroughly acquainted themselves with our essay writing requirements will marked down.

If you DO NOT understand any of the rules mentioned in this document, ask your Personal Tutor or Course Convenor. As a general rule, however, consistent adherence to one system is the best guiding principle.

# How to format essays

* The essay should be word-processed.
* It should be formatted for A4 paper.
* The essay should be double-spaced with margins (at least 1” / 2.5 cm).
* Use a reader-friendly font in 12 pt.
* Pages should be numbered.

# How to submit essays

* Each essay will be submitted via Turnitin on the relevant Moodle page
* The Department Cover Sheet and Departmental Mark Sheet must be included in your submission.
* The word count should be indicated on the Essay Cover Sheet. The word count of essays *and dissertations* includes the text of all footnotes, endnotes, and tables but does not include the bibliography.

*Always remember to proofread and spellcheck your work carefully before submitting!*

# How to write essays

**Note:** *It is important that you keep your own research notes.* Students may be questioned about the sources from which they drew the information and arguments presented in their essays in cases of suspected plagiarism. Your notes will serve to clarify the situation.

## Introduction

Essays should have clear objectives. They should begin with an introduction explaining the essay question or defining the essay topic, and a brief statement setting out exactly how the essay will be structured and how the essay question will be answered or topic addressed.

## Summary (Literature Review)

To summarise several authors’ data and arguments is not as simple as it may at first appear, especially if they conflict with one another or if their arguments are complex or abstract. One of the main tasks in writing an essay is assessing the various perspectives offered by different authors. A well-structured, coherent, and informative summary is the first step towards a successful essay. Most importantly, if you do not fully understand what you have read, or if you fail to take good notes, you will find it difficult to make a good summary.

## Analysis

Analysis involves the distinction between and the evaluation of a number of sources, often those which present, either explicitly or implicitly, contradictory points of view. While you may initially find it difficult to assess the relative merits of conflicting scholarly arguments presented by leading specialists, you must at least develop the ability to compare and contrast differing views. In particular, avoid the temptation to harmonise conflicting views in an effort to mould them into some kind of consensus. Over time, as you read more and expand your knowledge base, you will feel more confident in picking and choosing from among different scholarly views and arguments.

## Critique

After two or three years of reading and evaluating scholarly materials, you should have acquired the ability to make sophisticated judgements, criticisms, and arguments based on an expanded knowledge base and the development of analytical skills. You should be able to evaluate and critique the arguments even of established scholars because you are familiar with the general state of scholarship on a particular topic (or know where to look to find out) and are more aware of scholarly techniques and argumentation. You can draw on a variety of sources for evidence in support of your own arguments and are probably acquainted with analogous issues or problems that would suggest to you contrasts and similarities. Final year essays and dissertations should be based almost entirely on scholarly analysis and critique.

## Conclusion

Essays should end with a paragraph or section providing a brief summary of what has been achieved in relation to the opening statement. A good essay should contain a summary of information and arguments found in diverse sources, analysis, and critiques.

# How to present quotes

A short quote should be incorporated in your own text enclosed by single inverted commas, while a longer quote, consisting of a few consecutive lines or sentences, should be set out as a separate paragraph, indented, single-spaced, and without inverted commas.

For a quote within a quote, use double inverted commas.

# How to present footnotes or endnotes

You must make clear acknowledgement of all the works you have used in writing your essay. You must cite your sources clearly and precisely, referring the reader to the author, the work and the page number from which you have drawn your information or argument. If you include more than one source, include all sources in one foot- or endnote, do not cumulate footnote signs. In case you work with a source giving only the author's initials, include these instead of the full first name.

Sources may be cited in *either* footnotes or endnotes, but once you have chosen your method, be consistent. All word-processing programmes have the facility of using either of these referencing methods.

Footnotes are the set of numbered notes at the bottom margin of each page. They correspond to the set of superscripted, small numbers, called *cues*, inserted in the main text on the same page.

Endnotes similarly correspond to the cues which are inserted in the main text, but they are located in one sequence at the end of the essay rather than being divided and matched with their corresponding cues at the bottom of each page.

The first time you cite a source, provide full bibliographical details in the format given below. If you will be making a subsequent reference to the same source, shorten it, and indicate that you will be referring to the work by the shortened form in all subsequent notes.

The following guidelines follow the **Modern Humanities Research Association style guide**. If you encounter problems with more complex references you can consult this guide, which can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.mhra.org.uk/index.html>

## Book

First and family name author, *Book Title* (Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication), page number/s.

### Example

Initial full reference: Neill Lochery, *Loaded Dice: The Foreign Office and Israel* (London: Continuum, 2007), 14-16.

Subsequent short reference: Lochery*, Loaded Dice*, page number/s.

If you cite in a footnote a source that has just been cited, do not repeat the reference (even in its shortened form) but simply write: 'ibid.' (which means: 'same place') followed by the page number.

### Example

1. Lochery, *Loaded Dice*, 45.

2. Ibid. 23-8.

## Article or chapter in a multi-authored edited book

First and family name author, 'Title Article or Chapter', in *Title of the Book*, ed. by editor/s (Place of publication: Publisher, Year of Publication), page number/s.

### Example

Mark Geller, 'Bloodletting in Babylonia', in *Magic and Rationality in Ancient Near Eastern and Graeco- Roman Medicine*, ed. by H. F. J. Horstmanshoff and M. Stol (Leiden, Brill Academic Publishers, 2003), page number/s.

## Article in a scholarly journal

Author's name, 'Article Title', *Name of Journal*, volume number in Roman or Arabic numerals, issue number in Arabic numerals (Year), page number/s.

### Example

Tsila Ratner, 'Playing Fathers' Games: The Story of Achsah, Daughter of Caleb, and the Princess's Blank Page', *in Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, 3, 2 (2004), page number/s.

*Note:* Not all journals have issue numbers. When they do have one, it needs to be referenced.

A reference to a scholarly journal published both in print and online, and accessed through an online portal (JSTOR, Muse, etc), does not require a URL or a DOI.

## Citations from online resources

Citations from online resources constantly grow in significance for scholarly writing. You should exercise the same degree of care in assessing the quality of material published online as you would for any other published material. Your reference should include the author's name, the title of the item, the title of the complete work or resource, publication details, full address (Universal Resource Locator, or URL) or DOI (Digital Object Identifier), as well the date when the resource was consulted, in square brackets:

### Example

François Guesnet, 'Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Joel Wegmeister and Modern Hasidic Politics in Warsaw', in *Quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History. Journal of Fondazione CDEC*, 2 (October 2011), URL: www.quest-cdecjournal.it/focus.php?id=222 [last accessed 28 November 2012]

Many academic online resources include full information for referencing, but not necessarily according to the style guide of this department!

## An encyclopaedia entry

Use encyclopaedia entries sparingly. They do not have the same value and authority as specialist articles and books. Encyclopaedia entries should normally be cited only for points of detail, not to support whole arguments.

You should cite the name of the entry, the name of the encyclopaedia, the volume number, the place and date of publication, and (in the case of the example below) the column numbers, as this is the form of pagination used in this particular encyclopaedia.

'Haskalah', in *Encyclopedia Judaica*, vol. 7 (Jerusalem, Keter Publishing House, 1972), 1433- 51.

## Article in a newspaper

Supply the page number only if you are citing news articles; indicate editorials and leading article; provide full date and issue number of the newspaper (some newspapers have their own issue numbering system, while others rely only on the date). If it is a major article, give author and title.

A front-page article entitled 'Rabin tells Efrat settlers: "You're staying in Israel"' by an anonymous correspondent (“From our Correspondent”) will be referenced as: *Jewish Chronicle*, 6593 (1 September 1995)

while an editorial entitled 'Hebrew for All' on page 20 should be cited as: Editorial, *Jewish Chronicle*, 6593 (1 September 1995).

A major article, written by a named author, should be cited thus: Zev Ben-Shlomo, 'An Almighty Evasion', *Jewish Chronicle*, 6594 (1 September 1995), iv-v.

## Citations from Biblical, Rabbinic and Classical Literature

###### Bible

In your notes, it will suffice to provide an abbreviated form of the book’s name, chapter and verse(s) number(s):

Gen. 1:1

In your bibliography give a full reference to the Bible edition/translation you have used.

###### Mishnah

Abbreviated as *m*. Provide also the abbreviated tractate name (e.g. *Ber*. for *Berakhot*) either underlined or in italics, as well as chapter and section number in plain font:

*mBer*. 1:1

###### Tosefta

Abbreviated as *t*. Provide also the abbreviated tractate name, underlined or in italics, as well as chapter and section number in plain font:

*tKet*. 1:1

###### Talmuds and Zohar

All current editions of the Babylonian Talmud (*b*), the Palestinian Talmud (*y* for Yerushalmi or *j* for Jerusalem) and Zohar have standard pagination or internal divisions. There is thus no need to cite the place and date of publication of the editions you have used in your notes (but do so in your bibliography).

###### Talmuds

In the notes, provide the italicised lower case letter (*b, y / j*) [distinguishing Babylonian from Palestinian/Jerusalem Talmud], the abbreviated name of the tractate in italics, and, for the Babylonian Talmud - the folio number (i.e. 16) and side (a or b), while for the Jerusalem Talmud – either the chapter and ‘halakhah’ number, or the folio number and column letter of the standard Venice edition, or both (as in the example below).

### Examples

Babylonian Talmud: *bBer*. 16a

Palestinian Talmud: *yBer*. 7:3 (11c)

Zohar: Provide the italicised title, the Part (I, II, or III), the folio number in Arabic numerals, and the side (a or b). *Zohar* III, 16a

# How to present the bibliography

The bibliography reveals to your reader what books and articles you have used for your work and supplies full details of all the materials cited. It is obligatory for all work submitted in the Department to be accompanied by a full bibliography.

There are a number of differences between the presentation of information in the foot/endnotes and in a bibliography. The foot/endnotes appear in the order in which you cite your sources; the bibliography should be in alphabetical order according to the author's surname.

If you are using more than one work by the same author, list the titles in alphabetical order.

If a book has no author, use the title to establish its position in the alphabetical order.

The following guidelines follow the **Modern Humanities Research Association style guide**. If you encounter problems with more complex references you can consult this guide, which can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.mhra.org.uk/index.html>

## A single-authored book

Family name, first name author, *Book Title* (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication)

### Example

Stern, Sacha, *Time and Process in Ancient Judaism* (Oxford: The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2003)

If you list another book by Prof. Stern, a line replaces his name: ————

## A single chapter or article in a multi-authored, edited book

Family name, first name of author, 'Chapter or Article Title', in *Book Title*, ed. by names of editor/s (Place of Publication, Publisher, Year of Publication), page numbers of entire chapter/article.

### Example

Berkowitz, Michael, 'Rags and Riches, or Bogeymen of the Bourse: Antisemitism and the Abstract Economy in England, the United States, France and Central Europe, 1720-1900', in *Inclusion and Exclusion: Perspectives on Jews from the Enlightenment to the Dreyfus Affair*, ed. by Sam W. Bloom, Ilana Y. Zinguer (Leiden, Brill Academic Publishers, 2003), 267-74.

The author’s name, not the editor’s, is used for alphabetising in the bibliography.

## An edited book

Family name, first name of editor, ed., *Book Title* (Place of Publication, Publisher, Year of Publication)

### Example

Rapoport-Albert, Ada, ed., *Hasidism Reappraised* (London and Portland, Oregon, The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 1996)

If a book has many editors, provide the names of the first two (following alphabetical order) and then add et al. This is an abbreviation of the Latin *et alii* meaning “and others”. Since *et al.* is a foreign word, it should be italicised or underlined.

## An article in a journal

Family name, first name of author, 'Article Title', *Journal Title*, Volume and Issue Number (Year of Publication), page numbers

### Example

Smelik, Willem, 'Language, Locus and Translation between the Talmudim', *Journal for the Aramaic Bible*, 3 (2001), 199-224

## An encyclopaedia entry

*Name of Encyclopedia*, Number of Volumes (Place of Publication, Publisher, Year of Publication)

### Example

*YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe, 2 vols.* (New Haven, London, Yale University Press)

In the bibliography, cite the whole work, not any individual entry which you have referenced in your footnotes or endnotes.

## An article in a newspaper

A major article by a named author should appear under its author’s name:

Ben Shlomo, Zev, 'An Almighty Evasion', *Jewish Chronicle*, 6594 (1 September 1995), iv-v.

If you cite anonymous news articles or editorials, do not cite them individually. Rather, have a separate category of your bibliography which simply lists newspapers by name.

### Example

*The Guardian*

*The Jewish Chronicle*

*The Times*

## An online resource

Family name, first name author, 'Article Title', the title of the complete work or resource, publication details, full address (Universal Resource Locator, or URL) or DOI (Digital Object Identifier)

### Example

Rachel Harris, 'Review of Cohen, Nir, Soldiers, Rebels, and Drifters: Gay Representation in Israeli Cinema', *H-Judaic, H-Net Reviews*, July 2012, URL: <http://www.hnet.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=35156>.

# Transliteration

There are scores of systems for transliterating from one alphabet to another. For the English transliteration of Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic and Russian follow the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 2nd edn, vol. 1 (Jerusalem, Keter Publishing House, 1972), 197-199. For transliterations from Hebrew (page 197), please use the 'general' transliteration, not the 'scientific'. Again, **consistency is an essential rule.**

Names and place names are usually a problem (e.g., Wilno, Vilna, and Vilnius; Lwów, Lvov, L'viv, and Lemberg). As a general rule, employ the designation which was in use at the time and in the region to which you are referring in your own essay, and be consistent.

# Plagiarism

If you fail to cite used materials properly in your references and your bibliography, you may be penalised for **plagiarism**. In its extreme form, plagiarism is punished by a zero (failing) mark for the entire piece of work in which it was detected. Students who allow their own work to be plagiarised or copied are also subject to these penalties.

You may also be guilty of plagiarism if you submit the same material to satisfy the requirements of two different courses. The department's general rule is that no more than 25% of the material in one essay may appear in another.

# Penalties

Planning, time-management, and the meeting of deadlines are part of the personal and professional skills expected of all graduates. For this reason, students are required to submit all coursework by the published deadline.

## Extenuating Circumstances

Where a student is ill or has other Extenuating Circumstances preventing them from meeting the published deadline, they must refer to [Section 2: Extenuating Circumstances](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-2-student-support-framework/section-2-short-term-illness-and-other-extenuating) in the [Academic Manuel](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/node/19). If the EC is accepted, the student may be granted an extension. If the deadline has already passed, the late submission penalties may be suspended i.e., the below penalties will not apply.

## Late Submission Penalties

Where there are no Extenuating Circumstances, the following penalties must apply to all components which are submitted after the published date and time (from [Academic Manuel 3.12](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-4-assessment-framework-taught-programmes/section-3-module-assessment#3.12))

#### Modules at Levels 4, 5 and 6

##### Component Mark/ Grade of 40.00-100.00% / A-D

* Up to 2 working days late: Deduction of 10 percentage points or 1 Letter Grade, but no lower than 40.00% / Grade D
* 2-5 working days late: Mark capped at 40.00% / Grade D
* More than 5 working days late: Mark of 1.00% / Grade E

##### Component Mark/ Grade of 1.00-39.99% / E

* Up to 2 working days late: No Penalty
* 2-5 working days late: No Penalty
* More than 5 working days late: Mark of 1.00% / Grade E

#### Modules at Level 7:

##### Component Mark/ Grade of 50.00-100.00% / A-C

* Up to 2 working days late: Deduction of 10 percentage points or 1 Letter Grade, but no lower than 50.00% / Grade C
* 2-5 working days late: Mark capped at 50.00% / Grade C
* More than 5 working days late: Mark of 1.00% / Grade E

##### Component Mark/ Grade of 1.00-49.99% / D-E

* Up to 2 working days late: No Penalty
* 2-5 working days late: No Penalty
* More than 5 working days late: Mark of 1.00% / Grade E5.

Work which is not submitted at all will receive a mark of 0.00%/ Grade F for that Component under the regulations in 3.11: No Attempt or Minimal Attempt at Assessment.

* There are separate late submission penalties for Take-Home Papers. Please refer to the Student Regulations for Exams and Assessments for full details.
* Late submissions can only be made up to one calendar month after the published deadline, or two weeks before the Board of Examiners considers the marks for the assessment, whichever is the earlier date. Work submitted after this will receive a mark of 0.00%/ Grade F for that Component under the regulations in 3.11: No Attempt or Minimal Attempt at Assessment.
* In the case of work that is submitted over- or under-length and is also late, the greater of any penalties must apply.
* As some submissions are made in hard copy or involve artefacts which cannot be submitted at weekends, and because there is no technical support for online submissions at weekends, penalties must be based on the number of working days. As a result, a deadline set for a Thursday will only begin to incur the higher penalties on a Monday, and those set on a Friday will only begin to incur the higher penalties on a Tuesday, or longer in the case of bank holidays or UCL closure days. Deadlines should be set with these restrictions in mind.

# Word Counts

From [Academic Manuel 3.13](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-4-assessment-framework-taught-programmes/section-3-module-assessment#3.13)

1. A minimum and/ or maximum word count may be specified as part of the assessment criteria for a component or module. The word count must specify whether footnotes, bibliographies, appendices, tables, figures etc. are to be included in the word count.
2. Where a word count is included, the module information for students must provide clear details of any penalties that will apply for over- or under-writing.
3. Penalties must not exceed a deduction in marks of 10 percentage points, or one Letter Grade, for that component and must not take the student’s mark below the Pass Mark (see Section 3.7).
4. Standardised penalties may be agreed at Faculty, Departmental/ Divisional, Programme or Module level.
5. In the case of coursework that is submitted over- or under-length and is also late, the greater of any penalties must apply.