

Organizing Concepts for the Humanities & Social Sciences:

The following typologies can help organize our information into useful ideas, notes and written responses.

Literary Typologies:

1. **Plot** (sequence of events: rising action; climax; falling action/plot techniques)
2. **Theme** (the unifying and central concept(s) of a piece of literature)
3. **Characters** (major/minor; protagonist/antagonist; dynamic/static; round/flat)
4. **Point of View** (Who is the speaker/narrator? What is gained & lost?)
5. **Style** (formal to colloquial: sentence length, word choice, tone & audience)
6. **Literary Devices** (figurative language; sound play; symbolism)

Social Studies Typologies:

1. **Politics** (means of resolving conflict: government, law, military, ideologies, social movements, etc.)
2. **Economics** (means of meeting material needs through production and distribution: money, ownership, wealth, income etc.)
3. **Culture** (human expression: arts, media, language, beliefs, philosophy, religion, etc.)
4. **Technology** (machinery, tools, equipment, organizing ideas, etc.)
5. **Society** (group structure & interaction: class, race, ethnicity, caste, etc.)
 - "Society" is often used as a general term that incorporates #1-4 and #5; we will use the narrower, sociological definition above.
6. **Geography** (humans and our physical world: population, territory, climate, resources, topography, etc.)
7. **Psychology** (human nature, individual motivations, perceptions and knowledge)

Analyzing Historical Events:

1. **Causes**
2. **Sequence of Events**
3. **Outcomes** (short and long range)

Organizational Strategies for Responding to Essay Questions:

1. **Reasoning** (using reasons, examples & arguments; best ones go last)
2. **Comparing Two Sides** (compare and contrast; pro/con)
3. **Chronological** (cause and effect; narratives)