## BMAN10501 Financial Reporting Essay

One of the most important skills for you to develop during your time at university is essay writing. Many of the marks in the exams, your coursework assessments, and the writing you produce at work when you graduate will be based on how well you can explain yourself.

We are setting this essay to give you the chance, not only to practice your essay writing, but to develop your assessment literacy enabling you to see what your assessors are looking for when they mark essays. Your essay is due to be submitted on Blackboard via Turnitin which will automatically check for plagiarism. There is no benefit to using ChatGPT for this essay as you will be sitting the exam in a hall on campus and it will be handwritten. In fact, writing the essay yourself gives you the chance to develop your thinking and essay writing style.

If you submit your essay on time you will be given the chance to access essays submitted by your peers, please note you do not need to give them feedback, you are using the guidance questions to write feedback for yourself. To review your peers’ essays we have created guidance questions for you in the form of “Essay Active Feedback, appendix 3”. Students on this course who answered and submitted these questions as well as submitting a redraft of their essay scored on average 18 more marks in the exam then those who did not last year and you can see some benefits of completing this work from past students here <https://youtu.be/WlqWNyjvfUM>

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| **Activity** | **Submission date** |
| Essay plan – Appendix 1 | Friday 6 October 3pm |
| In class discussion of good essay writing and exemplars – Appendix 2 | In workshops during the week commencing 9 October |
| Essay | Friday 20 October 3pm |
| Active feedback – Appendix 3 | Friday 27 October 3pm |
| Redraft of essay | Friday 1 December 3pm |

In addition to this you will be able to discuss your feedback in the workshops during the week commencing 6 November. If you have any questions, please post them on the Piazza discussion board

## Essay Title

The title for your essay is: **The role of accounting**

“Accounting is a technical, social and moral practice concerned with the sustainable utilisation of resources and proper accountability to stakeholders to enable the flourishing of organisations, people and nature”

(Carnegie, Parker, Tsahuridu 2021 p.69)

**Required:**

Write an essay reflecting on the extent to which you agree with this statement. Your essay should also cover the following discussion points:

* If you think accountants are able to influence the sustainable use of resources in the organisations which they work.
* What else needs to be included in a financial report to ensure organisations are held accountable to stakeholders, including nature.

**Guidance**

The word count should be between 500 and 750 words, concisely written and well structured. This question is very similar to the types of questions you will be asked in the exam. Please reference your work using Harvard referencing - for help with this see the "My Learning Essentials" course from the University of Manchester Library. Your references should be credible and wide-ranging and the list of references is excluded from your word count.

You should use the sources and inspiration from the topic 1 content, the further study materials on Blackboard, including journal articles, news articles and videos and use tools such as Google Scholar to explore additional reading in this area. Use the Piazza discussion board and come along to your workshop leader’s feedback and student consultation hours to ask questions and share ideas.

**Criteria**

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| Priority | Criteria | Detail |
| 1 | Structure | Does your essay have clear structure with a title, a balanced introduction and conclusion as well as correct and clear referencing? |
| 2. | Focus | Have you answered all parts of the question, using words from the requirement to show you have answered the question which has been asked? |
| 3. | Critical Thinking | Have you showed your own thinking and critically reviewed the sources of information, contributing original thinking and drawing out appropriate implications and conclusions? Have you answered the questions of why? And so what? |
| 4. | Referencing | Are the references used relevant, wide ranging and credible including academic sources? |