

9 The three tasks and what each rewards – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary 词汇

Write each word three times. 把每个单词抄写三遍。

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)
synthesis	综合	_____

Recall

- You know the three essay types ask for different things.
- You have used the wrong approach on a task and lost marks for good writing.
- You know the sources in a synthesis question are given for a reason.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Synthesis

A **synthesis** 综合 essay argues a position using provided sources. The sources support your argument; the essay is not a report on what they say.

Worked example. Using two sources to establish one of your claims is synthesis; summarising six sources in turn is not.

■ 2 Rhetorical analysis

A rhetorical analysis explains **how** a text achieves its purpose for its audience. It does not evaluate whether the argument is right.

Worked example. Explaining why the writer opens with a concession is analysis; saying the writer is correct is not.

■ 3 Argument

An argument essay defends your own position on a question, with your own evidence. The evidence may come from anywhere you know well - history, reading, observation - provided it is specific.

Worked example. A precisely described historical case supports an argument; “throughout history, people have...” supports nothing.

Watch out: The commonest and most expensive error is writing the wrong essay: summarising sources in a synthesis, evaluating the argument in an analysis, or analysing style in an argument essay.

Practice

2.1 State what a synthesis essay does with its sources. [2]

2.2 State what a rhetorical analysis explains and what it does not. [2]

2.3 State what an argument essay defends and with what. [2]

2.4 Explain why “throughout history, people have...” supports nothing. [2]

2.5 Name the wrong-essay error for each of the three tasks. [3]
