

ECON 334
Writing Assignment

Some historical sources allow the obtainment of quantitative data that can be displayed in statistical tables, charts or maps. This assignment asks you to comment an historical table.

Years	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TERTIARY			
	Agriculture	Manufacturing, mining and construction	Trade and transport	Domestic/professional services	Government and defence	Housing
1688	40	21	12	15	7	5
1770	45	24	13	11	4	3
1801	32.5	23.6	17.5	11.3	9.8	5.3
1811	35.7	20.8	16.6	10.4	10.8	5.7
1821	26.1	31.9	15.9	5.7	13.1	6.2
1831	23.4	34.4	17.3	5.7	11.6	6.5
1841	22.1	34.4	18.4	6	9.6	8.2

Table 1. National product structure in England, 1688-1841 (estimated percentage of the national income). Source: Berg (1990).

Guidelines

You can follow this five-stage process.

1. Description and main idea. What do you see? What is that table about? What does it contain? What is it telling us? Remember that its title not always gives us evidence about the main idea (and sometimes it is even misleading). For instance: a table displaying the distribution of the active population by sector in England between 1750 and 1850 is not just telling us about the “distribution of the active population”, and not even about the Industrial Revolution in England. It is telling us about the structural change that took place in the English economy as a result of the Industrial Revolution.

2. Context. Where and when? How can you relate the place and the period to the main idea?

3. Analysis. What? How? Why? Let’s connect what we see to what we know. This is the most important part of your analysis. Explain the facts, causes, consequences, and implications of a phenomenon. You can develop your argument with the support of the course material (references, figures, etc.). It is time to show what you have learned by studying Economic History.

4. Conclusion. You will have to emphasize the most relevant features of your interpretation. Be concrete and get to the point.

5. Citation of Sources. It is crucial that you cite your sources properly. Be sure you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Students are reminded of the **UBC Policy on plagiarism** - see www.library.ubc.ca/home/plagiarism/-. We take academic integrity very seriously, and therefore have no hesitation in passing along suspected cases of plagiarism to the academic authorities for disciplinary action.

Length

The maximum length is 1,000 words including title, name, student number, footnotes and references. Exceeding this limit will carry a 20% deduction. Also, please ensure that your text is double-spaced.

Deadline

You will have to hand in a hard copy to the instructor, to the TA or to the department office by November 22 at 5 pm. Assignments submitted in the subsequent 48 hours will carry a 10% deduction. Assignments submitted after 5 pm on November 24 will receive a grade of zero.

Grading scheme

The grading scheme will be as follows:

1. Description and main idea, up to 20%.
2. Context, up to 20%.
3. Analysis, up to 40%.
4. Conclusion, up to 10%.
5. Citation of sources, up to 10%.

(A total of 100% will be equivalent to 15% of the final grade for the course)