



Annotated models of disciplinary essays

2. Annotated Modern Languages essay

The essay question

The first year Modern Languages essay on the following pages was written in response to this question:

Italy on the eve of 1860 has often been described as an unlikely nation. Why?

Essay outline

This outline forms the basis of the Modern Languages essay.

Thesis

Orientation: Italy described a geographical area, not a nation.

Thesis: there were many obstacles to unification –

1. distrust between the states
2. lack of planning and common goals amongst those who wanted a united Italy
3. disagreement and dislike between the leaders of *Il Risorgimento*

Background

historical: comparison of industrial and agricultural progress of other countries to suggest lack of unification was detrimental to the Italian people

Argument

obstacle to unification was the failure of the population to take up the cause.

Why? common people were poor and illiterate. (weren't concerned with matters beyond survival), and little sense of community

Argument

divisiveness and mistrust between the states was a major obstacle supporting evidence in form of quote from a primary source

- other supporting evidence: there were regional customs' barriers, and general dislike of regional differences

Argument

lack of common goals and the poor planning associated with the uprisings in Italy (another obstacle to unification)

Argument

Another obstacle was the dislike between the main agitators in the fight for independence.

Evidence: relations between Cavour, Garibaldi, Mazzini



1. Annotated History essay



2. Annotated Modern Languages essay



3. Annotated Philosophy essay



4. Annotated Creative Arts essay



5. Annotated Management essay



6. Annotated Engineering essay



7. Annotated Sociology essay

Learning objectives

This module will help you to:

- understand how a well written essay is structured
- understand what a well written essay in your discipline is
- use evidence to support and develop arguments
- incorporate references in an essay
- use academic language



Conclusion

overview of main arguments

Closing: when unification was achieved

Essay annotations

Annotations are provided in the right hand column. These annotations highlight significant features of the essay, such as structure and how evidence for the argument is built up and incorporated. The annotations in ‘text boxes’ comment on other features such as academic language and referencing conventions. For further information on these features see the relevant self access module.

Student essay	Comments
<p>On the eve of 1860 the word Italy described not a nation, but a geographical area. The peninsula was split into eight separate states, all independent of one another. Economically, while the whole of Europe seemed to be surging ahead, Italy was lagging behind. At this time, Italy was seen as an unlikely nation because of the many obstacles that lay in the way of unification. The main obstacles were the dislike and distrust between the states and the “slowness of the great bulk of Italians to accept or even comprehend the idea of Italy.”¹ There was also a lack of planning and common goals amongst the minority of the population that wanted a unified country and disagreement and dislike between the leaders of “<i>Il Risorgimento</i>”.</p>	<p><i>thesis orientation to topic (and reiterates essay question)</i> <i>thesis statement (also functions as essay outline)</i></p>
<p>After the French Revolution and the collapse of the Napoleonic rule in Italy, the Restoration States were formed by Austria and the Congress of Vienna in 1815. These states consisted of the Papal States, ruled by the Pope, Lombardy-Venetia which was an Austrian province, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies which included the island of Sicily and the Italian mainland south of the Papal States and which was ruled by a Spanish Bourbon. There were the Duchies of Tuscany, Modena, Parma and Lucca, all ruled by members of the Austrian Royal House, and the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia, the only Independent state. According to Duggan, on the eve of unification, the economic pace in Europe was quickening while, in contrast, Italy seemed to be stagnating. Britain led the way, with France, Belgium and the German states having similar success. For example, Britain in the 1840’s had three thousand miles of railway with this growing to ten thousand miles by 1860.</p>	<p><i>background information</i> <i>Italy was divided up into eight independent states</i></p>
<p>The output of pig iron and cotton also soared, as did production of other goods. Factories were developed out of small workshops as the middle class grew in size and wealth. In Italy the situation looked far less promising: in comparison with Britain, there was only sixty miles of railway in all of the south in 1860.² The north of Italy was advancing but in the south there was very little industry and agriculture was suffering, as was the peasant population who was living in poverty.</p>	<p><i>compares industrial and agricultural progress of other countries with Italy to suggest that lack of unification was detrimental to the Italian people</i></p>
<p>¹ Mack Smith, D., (1968), <i>The Making of Italy, 1796-1870</i>, Harper and Row, New York, p. 2. ² Duggan, C., (1994), <i>A Concise History of Italy</i>, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, p117-118.</p>	

One of the obstacles to unification was the failure of the majority of the population to take up the cause, yet as early as the fifteenth century, Niccolo Machiavelli, the Florentine political philosopher, expressed the idea of Italy under one ruler. He wrote in the *Principe* "the barbarous domination of the stranger stinks in the nostrils of all"³ Dante, the great Florentine poet, also expressed similar views. However these ideas remained largely stagnant and in the Restoration States of the mid-nineteenth century the average Italian "was a poor peasant, illiterate, living on the edge of starvation, and with little or no say in the way he was governed,"⁴ and presumably with little or no thought to any matters other than his own survival. This view is supported by Jucker who says that for most, the family and its interests took precedence over every other form of loyalty. This largely prevented any other feelings of patriotism or a sense of community.⁵

The divisiveness and mistrust between the states was another major obstacle to national unity. Between these states, a keen political and commercial rivalry existed: the differences between the regions were enormous. Guise Mizzen, the leading agitator for the freedom of Italy at this period, declared:

We have no flag, no political name, no rank among European nations. We have no common centre, no common fact, no common market. We are dismembered into eight states ... all independent of one another, without alliance, without unity of aim, without connection between them ... Eight different systems of currency, weights and measures, civil, commercial and penal legislation, of administrative organization and of police restriction, divide us and render us as much possible strangers to each other.⁶

argument topic sentence (first argument)

supporting explanation

LANGUAGE FEATURES
structuring an argument: one of the obstacles ...
 However ...
 ... also
 (next paragraph)
 ... another obstacle ...

topic sentence (second argument)

supporting evidence (quotes primary source)

REFERENCING
Quotes longer than three lines are indented, and are not enclosed with inverted commas. The reference is given a footnote.

This view was supported by Mack Smith (1959), who points out that along the course of the Po River, there existed as many as twenty two customs' barriers, a striking example of the secularity "which impeded national unification and the advance of agriculture and industry."⁷ Italians did, however, share a common historical heritage which was that of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance, also a common religion, Catholicism. There was also a common culture of art and literature, but this was only on a specific level which was that of the ruling and educated middle classes. However, for

further supporting evidence: existence of regional customs' barriers point: while there were considerable barriers to unification, the Italians did share common historical heritage

3 Martinengo-Cesaresco, E., (1895), *The Liberation of Italy, 1815-1870*, Seeley and Co. Limited, London, p. 2.

4 Leeds, C., (1974), *The Unification of Italy*, Wayland Publishers, London, p.10.

5 Jucker, N., (1970), *Italy*, Thames and Hudson, London, p.13.

6 Leeds, C., op. cit., p. 12 (as cited in Mazzini, *Italy, Austria and the Papacy*, London, 1845)

7 Mack Smith, D., (1959), *Italy*, University of Michigan Press, New York.

the most part, this had little relevance in the lives of the majority of the population who spoke the dialect of their own region and were generally illiterate and so were unfamiliar with the great literary works. In fact, when Italy was unified, only four per cent of the population had knowledge of the Italian language.⁸

*topic sentence
(third argument)*

The regions were divided by their dislike and distrust of one another. According to Leeds “the Florentine dislike the Venetian, who in turn looked down on the Neapolitan, while the Sicilian was resentful of any suggestion that he might come from the mainland.”⁹ Similarly, Mack Smith (1968) notes that the regions of the peninsula kept their own foreign policies, and that no one region could be any more politically successful than another without the others reacting vehemently and almost automatically against it.¹⁰

*supporting information:
quotes authority*

A good example of the mistrust that existed between the states and impeded unification was an aspect of the 1831 revolutions as told in Duggan. As revolts broke out in the Duchy of Modena and spread south towards Bologna and the Marche, Modena sent troops to help Bologna in the fight against the Austrians. However, as the Bolognese were extremely suspicious of the Modenese, they would only allow them into the city on the condition that they disarmed. Of course the revolt failed and it seemed that the different cities could never let go of their old rivalries and come together for a common cause.¹¹

example to support argument that the regions were divided by their dislike and distrust of one another consequence and implications

Another major obstacle in the way of a united Italy was the lack of common goals and the poor planning associated with the uprisings that were occurring throughout Italy. Because of the Restoration States’ vigorous censorship, many secret societies emerged after 1815. According to Duggan, these secret societies “lacked unity and a clear sense of what they hoped to achieve on a practical level,”¹² and this was their main problem. One of these societies was the *carbonari* whose political views ranged from the moderate to the extreme. Penrose Trevelyan suggests that the program of *carbonari* was obviously lacking which in turn limited their capacity to rouse the national spirit. They needed something that would “awaken the masses to the revolution that would be required to free Italy from the foreign and domestic oppressors.”¹³

*topic sentence
(fourth argument)*

*exemplification
the secret societies lacked unity and common goals*

example of one secret society

Transition between one paragraph and the next

Despite this, however, there were uprisings, though mostly unsuccessful. For example, near Naples in 1820, a revolt led by a squadron of cavalry from a small military unit at Nola broke out. The Spanish King was forced to adopt a constitution,

further development of argument that there was a lack of planning and

8 Duggan, C., op. cit., p. 156.

9 Leeds, C., op.cit., p. 13.

10 Mack Smith, D., (1968), op. cit., p. 3.

11 Duggan, C., op. cit. p. 107.

12 Ibid., p. 103.

13 Penrose Trevelyan, J., (1920), *A Short History of the Italian People*, Allen and Unwin Ltd., New York, pp. 329-330.

<p>but some of the insurgents wanted a Spanish constitution, mainly because this was what was available to them, and yet others wanted a Neapolitan ‘nation’. This caused such divisions that the King was able to prepare the way for a counter revolution, and with the help of the Austrian troops he was able to squash the uprising. During this time, there was never any widespread support for the army and there was very little sign anywhere of much ‘Italian’ feeling.¹⁴</p>	<p><i>common goals amongst those that wanted a unified nation supporting information uprisings were unsuccessful</i></p>
<p>Another example of a failed uprising is that of Palermo in 1820. According to Duggan, it began spontaneously as a workers’ revolt. The main forces behind it were peasants whose political ideas were simple: they wanted better working conditions, but with a bitter feud existing between Sicily and Naples, there were elements of mostly middle classes and nobility that joined in hoping to win independence from Naples for the island; but they lacked staying power and when events became difficult to control the army stepped in and put an end to the revolution.¹⁵ Both of these revolutions, it seems, were very poorly planned, with very little attention paid to strategy and little thought as to what could be achieved. In each example, there were factions at work that had their own political agenda and with neither uprising being specifically aimed at national unity.</p>	<p><i>further evidence for argument that there was a lack of planning, and lack of common goals</i></p> <p><i>concluding comment to fourth argument</i></p>
<p>Yet another obstacle to unity was the dislike and disagreement between the main agitators in the fight for independence. The key figures of “Il Risorgimento” were Count Camillo di Cavour, Giuseppe Mazzini and Giuseppe Garibaldi. Cavour is often said to have been the ‘architect of unity’: he became Prime Minister of Piedmont in 1852 and was the first Prime Minister of Italy. He was a realist and did not favour extremes. He represented the tiny ruling class of Liberal conservatives who were allowed to vote.¹⁶</p>	<p><i>topic sentence (fifth argument)</i></p> <p><i>supporting evidence a) Cavour was a realist</i></p>
<p>Mazzini, on the other hand, was an idealist. He thought Italy was destined for greatness and according to Cronin, he had an “unshakable belief in the popular will, republicanism, and in the need for social justice.”¹⁷ Mazzini founded <i>Giovine Italia</i> in 1831. The association’s objectives were unity and a republic and the only way that this could be achieved was through “education and insurrection, to be adopted simultaneously, and made to harmonize with each other.”¹⁸ <i>Giovine Italia</i> attracted a lot of support and by 1833 had sixty thousand members, and of these being Giuseppe Garibaldi.</p>	<p><i>supporting evidence b) while Mazzini was an idealist</i></p>
<p>Garibaldi was a supporter of Mazzini, but unlike Cavour he did not belong to the conservative elite. Garibaldi was, according to Mack Smith, “rough and untutored, with little</p>	<p><i>supporting evidence c) Garibaldi was a supporter of</i></p>
<p>14 Mack Smith, D., (1968) op. cit., p. 37. 15 Duggan, C., op. cit., p. 104 16 Mack Smith, D., (1971), <i>Victor Emanuel, Cavour and the Risorgimento</i>, Oxford University Press, London, p. 3. 17 Cronin, V., (1966), <i>A Concise History of Italy</i>, Cassell and Company Ltd., London, p. 182. 18 Leeds, C., op. cit., p. 22 (as cited in Mazzini, <i>Life and Writings of Joseph Mazzini</i>, VI, London, 1869)</p>	

grasp of long-term strategy, but with remarkable flair for irregular warfare.¹⁹ His men loved him and many thought that he could not be killed or wounded. He had a “single-minded ... love of Italy.”²⁰

It was largely these three men who brought about the unification of Italy, and yet they accomplished this in spite of each other for there was rivalry between them that belied the final results. Mazzini was regarded as unpopular in Piedmont, the province of Cavour. Furthermore, Cavour viewed Mazzini as the enemy of religion and monarchy and even went as far as to forewarn the Austrians (the common enemy) and the other Italian states against Mazzinian activities. Indeed, it has been suggested that “Cavour and Mazzini didn’t like each other”.²¹ Cavour was a practical politician who was prepared to work slowly and steadily towards a limited goal of unity which he still considered a remote dream, whereas Mazzini was an idealist who wanted, and could foresee, nothing less than Italian independence.²²

Cavour and Garibaldi had little in common and according to Garibaldi, “Count Cavour bore a lively resemblance to those noblemen of the *ancien regime*, who look down with disdain on the common people and governed them accordingly”.²³ This relationship was further strained when, according to Duggan, in 1858 Cavour met secretly with Napoleon to negotiate terms for a war against Austria. It was agreed that Piedmont would take all of northern Italy and give Savoy and Nice, Garibaldi’s birthplace, to France.²⁴ Garibaldi was incensed by what he saw as Cavour’s treachery and betrayal, and he “never forgave Cavour for sacrificing his home town”,²⁵ and he thought him a “coward and a fomenter of civil war.”²⁶

Garibaldi and Mazzini, on the other hand, appeared to have more in common. Viotti says of their relationship, “Garibaldi’s acquaintance with Mazzini was not only a determining factor in the evolution of his political ideas; it altered the entire course of his life.”²⁷ However, Mack Smith (1959) says that whilst Garibaldi called himself a republican, he actually served the monarchy loyally. Mazzini was disgusted when, after conquering half of Italy in the campaign of 1860, Garibaldi meekly handed it over to the King.²⁸ Cronin agrees with this by saying that Mazzini was deeply disappointed that Italy became united under a monarchy and not a republic as he had always believed it should be.²⁹

19 Mack Smith, D., (1959), op. cit., p. 15.
 20 Ibid., p. 15.
 21 Mack Smith, D., (1971), op. cit., p. 26.
 22 Cronin, V., op. cit., p. 189.
 23 Leeds, C., op. cit., p. 62 (cited in Arrivabene, *Italy under Victor Emanuel*, Vol. I, London, 1862).
 24 Duggan, C., op. cit., p. 127
 25 Cronin, V., op. cit., p. 191.
 26 Mack Smith, D., (1959), op. cit., p. 16.
 27 Viotti, A., (1979), *Garibaldi, The Revolutionary and his Men*, Blandford Press Ltd., Dorset, UK, p. 19.
 28 Mack Smith, D., op. cit., p. 15.
 29 Cronin, V., op. cit., p. 197.

Mazzini but had little in common with Cavour

topic sentence there was rivalry and dislike between the three main agitators for revolution

supporting evidence

further supporting evidence for argument that there was rivalry and dislike amongst the three main agitators for revolution

argument: Garibaldi and Mazzini had more in common, but didn’t share common goals

supporting evidence: Garibaldi was pro-monarchy in his actions whereas Mazzini was a republican

