

Narrative account

The **narrative account** question requires you to write an account which explains how events led to an outcome by making clear how one event links to another. The word ‘narrative’ means an account of connected events.

3 steps to creating a strong narrative

1. A good narrative should have a **beginning, middle and end** – plan your answer carefully and stick to the dates in the question!
2. Think about your answer in terms of creating a **chain of events** – it’s important that you put these events in the correct chronological order so that your account makes sense.
3. Try to **link events** together to show how they led to an outcome.

Think about how you can use **second-order concepts** to help explain the links between events, e.g.

- change – this changed...
- consequence – this brought about...

Try to make sure your answer has a good sense of chronology and how the events build up to the outcome!

Useful words for **linking**:

- As a result...
- This led to...
- Because of ... she decided to...
- In response to this...
- This made conditions better/worse because...
- This increased...
- The effect of this was...
- The next month...



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The narrative account question uses the word **analyse**: this means to break down a complex issue [the question] into more manageable parts [individual events] to help people better understand the issue. This is done by showing the links between events, and the patterns in a narrative to explain how they led to an outcome.

Write a narrative account **analysing** the ways in which the cattle industry grew in the years 1865–74.

You need to explain, or **analyse**, the links between the key events in the narrative of how the cattle industry grew.

Write a narrative account **analysing** the key events of the Berlin Crisis, 1948–49.

You need to explain, or **analyse**, the links between the key parts of the narrative of the Berlin Crisis.

In 1948, Stalin was concerned that the Allies were rebuilding the economy in western Germany through the Marshall Plan. This led to him seeing the capitalist western side of Berlin as a threat to his control of Eastern Europe. As a result, he decided that he needed to force the Allies to leave their sectors of Berlin. In order to achieve this, he cut the road and rail links from the West to Berlin.

As well as using knowledge, this part of an answer is analysing by showing how the events link together. It uses analytical language to show the links.