

EN2E7 Crime Fiction, Nation, and Empire: Essay 2

Essay Plan (10%): no more than 800 words.

Submit 1x 1 page Essay Plan on TABULA by 12pm on Thursday of week 1, Term 3, (check tabula for exact date). It must contain two versions of an essay plan for essay 2.

The first version should be your draft title, thesis statement/argument, and bullet-pointed structure outline for the second essay (including details of text choice) that you then discuss with your seminar tutor in a documented office hour / by email. **Please note that there will be limited access to office hours and email during Easter break – check with your tutor.**

The second version is a **revised and edited** version of all those elements **following the** consultation with your tutor and after further research/planning.

EN2E7 Essay 2 (40%): Independent Research Essay – 2500 words (10%+/-).

Deadline: One electronic WORD DOC (not pdf) should be **submitted on TABULA by 12pm on Wednesday, week 2 of term 3** (check tabula for date).

- ❖ **WRITE 1 X 2500-word essay EITHER in response to one of the nine prompts below, OR craft your own topic with approval from your tutor. Either way you need to devise a title and narrow your focus.**
- ❖ You must use **two primary texts, whether short stories and/or novels, studied from Chesterton (if not used before) to Marsh.**
- ❖ You **must engage with a range of secondary sources** and would greatly benefit from finding and engaging effectively with one or more primary sources.
- ❖ You should **not repeat** discussions from the glossary or first essay.
- ❖ Ensure to refer to the **feedback from your first essay** to avoid repeated errors, and to improve presentation and style.

Make sure that you are aware of and follow the [department guidelines](#) for the presentation of essays and of the [regulations on plagiarism](#).

Use [MLA or MHRA formatting](#). See also, further departmental resources on essay and research skills on our [Academic Writing Moodle](#).

[Extensions](#) are to be requested **via Tabula** (either next to the assignment for a specific extension over 5 working days with evidence, or using the separate “self-certify” button under your “Personal Circumstances” tab for 5 working days no questions asked).

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1. “four years of broadening experience for women, in which they found themselves able to perform duties regarded exclusively as the tasks of men—four years which developed their spirit of adventure, (are) now finding outlet in crime”

(Frederick Clifton, '[Woman the Criminal](#)', *Daily Mail*, 23 September 1924, 8)

2. “The phantasy, then, which the detective story addict indulges is the phantasy of being restored to the Garden of Eden, to a state of innocence, where he may know love as love and not as the law. The driving force behind this daydream is the feeling of guilt, the cause of which is unknown to the dreamer. The phantasy of escape is the same, whether one explains the guilt in Christian, Freudian, or any other terms. One’s way of trying to face the reality, on the other hand, will, of course, depend very much on one’s creed”

(W.H. Auden, “[The Guilty Vicarage](#)”, 1948).

3. “The humanitarians take the lofty line that it is unpardonable to slay a human being [...] The medical men assert that because the majority of murderers are mentally abnormal [...] they should not in any case be put to death, but kept in confinement and under medical observation in the hope that it may be found possible, surgically or otherwise, to remove their criminal tendencies. The third class argue that because murders are committed from time to time, although the penalty is well known to be death, therefore the fear of death is no deterrent”

(W.G. Carlton Hall, “[Capital Punishment](#)”, 1928).

4. “The plague of atrocious and anonymous murders has naturally been discussed as a problem of the police. It is usually thought sufficient to make a vague demand for more “organisation,” for the modern man is in favour of introducing order into everything except his own ideas. But I think the remedy insufficient—first, because the British police are already more centralised and powerful than they were ever meant to be, or than our national tradition of liberty allowed of their being; and, second, because all this talk of mere organisation rests on a fallacy. Organisation very often means merely turning men into machinery; and it is quite a mistake to suppose that machinery as such is efficient”

(G.K. Chesterton, “[The Efficiency of the Police](#)”, 1922).

5. “Death in particular seems to provide the minds of the Anglo-Saxon race with a greater fund of innocent amusement than any other single subject,¹ and when it is occasioned or accompanied by Sin in its more repugnant shapes, the fun grows faster and more furious. Let the murder turn out to be no murder, but a mere accident or suicide, and letters pour in from indignant readers who have been cheated of their darling Sin; let the ghost turn out to be no ghost but a white donkey or an escape of gas, and the reader turns up his nose at a Death so minished of its attendant horrors. Some prefer the intellectual cheerfulness of the detective story; some, the uneasy emotions of the ghost-story; but in either case, the tale must be [p.12] about dead bodies or very wicked people, preferably both, before the Tired Business Man can feel really happy and at peace with the world.

¹ Except Love: but many aspects of this popular subject may be included under Sin.

(Dorothy L. Sayers, “[Introduction](#)”, *Great Stories of Detection, Mystery, and Horror*, 1936)

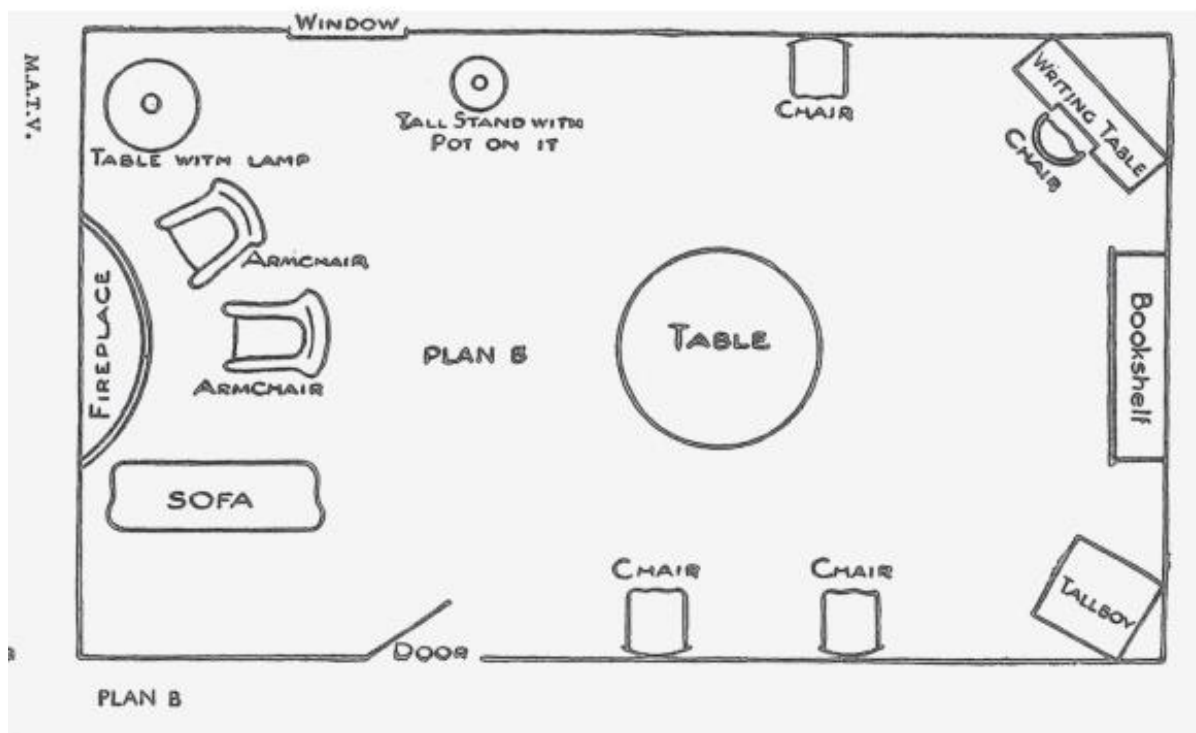
6. 1929 Conservative party propaganda poster.



7. Poster Image: Frank Newbould, "Your Britain. Fight for it Now" for Army Bureau of Current Affairs, 1942. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/20289>



8. A map of the scene of the murder in *The Murder at the Vicarage* (HarperCollins, 2016), p.46.



9. Cartoon from *Punch* magazine, vol.169, 2nd December 1925, p.614.

