

FE Study Skills

Structuring Assignments

Session Outcomes

- Identify various ways of structuring assignments
- Develop critical thinking skills, patience & resilience

Structuring Assignments

Why is the way in which you structure assignments important?

- Establish coherent arguments
- Get your point across more accurately
- Easier to hit distinctions

Activity: Desert Survival (15 Mins)

- Start by reading the next slide and thinking about it. You have 5 mins
- Decide on the best tactics for survival and why. Will you stay put and await rescue? Will you head for the camp? Use the internet to research your ideas for the best strategy.
- Then choose your top 3 items for survival from the list. Justify your choices.

Activity 1 – Desert Survival

you have just crash landed in the Sonora Desert. The light twin engine plane, containing the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot, has completely burned. Only the airplane frame remains. You have not been injured.

The pilot was unable to notify anyone of your position before the crash. However he had indicated before impact that you were 70 miles south-southwest from a mining camp which is the nearest known habitation, and that you were approximately 65 miles off the course that was filed in your Flight plan.

You are dressed in light weight clothing—short sleeved shirts, pants, socks, and street shoes, everyone has a handkerchief.

See next slide for list of equipment

Choose 3 items from the list below to aid your survival. Your chances of survival depend on the choices.

- Flashlight (4 battery size)
- Jack-knife
- Sectional air map of the area
- Plastic raincoat (large size)
- Magnetic Compass
- Compress kit with gauze
- .45 calibre pistol (loaded)
- Parachute (red & white)
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- Bottle of 1,000 salt tablets
- 1 litre of water per person
- Book (Edible Animals of the Desert)
- A pair of sunglasses per person
- 2 litres of 80 proof Vodka
- 1 top coat per person
- A cosmetic mirror

Don't look at the next slide until your ready for the answers!

The experts opinion

- As Chief of the Desert Branch, Major Alonso Pond encountered countless survival cases which serve as a basis of the rationale for these rankings. His top 3 items are:
 1. Cosmetic Mirror – Of all the items the mirror is absolutely critical. It is the most powerful tool you have for communicating your presence. In sunlight a simple mirror can generate 5 to 7 million candle power of light. If you had no other items you would still have better than 81% chance of being spotted and picked up within the first 24 hours.
 2. 1 Top Coat per Person - Once you have a communication system to tell people where you are, your next problem is to slow down dehydration. Forty percent of the body moisture that is lost through dehydration is lost through respiration and perspiration. Moisture lost through respiration can be cut significantly by remaining calm. Moisture lost through perspiration can be cut by preventing the hot, dry air from circulating next to the skin. The top coats, ironic as it may seem, are the best available means for doing this. Without them survival time would be cut by at least a day.
 3. 1 litre of Water per Person – You could probably survive 3 days with just the first 2 items. Although the quart of water would not significantly extend the survival time, it would help to hold off the effect of dehydration. Once dehydration begins it would be impossible to reverse it with the amount of water available in this situation. Therefore, it would be best to drink the water during the first day so you can remain as clear-headed as possible when important decisions have to be made. Rationing it would do nothing at all.

Recap: Desert Survival

- This activity was designed to test your analytical skills and your critical thinking skills. The thought processes involved are linked to hitting distinction criteria
- You worked your way through pass (identify), merit (explain) & distinction (Justify) criteria
- It is important to plan your assignment before writing them. Take it a stage at a time and always think critically