

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

The Economic Boom of the 1950s and '60s

15. Explaining III – multiple explanations

When we last looked at 'explaining', we looked at 'simple explanations' – an explanation 'pathway' with a single idea as to how the cause led to the effect, thus:

GOVERNMENT ACTION	→ EXPLANATION OF HOW →	= EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY
-------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------

Therefore, if I were to attempt the question: "How did government actions help create the Economic Boom of the 1950s and '60s?" and using §e of the webpage, I might plan the sentence:

THE GI BILL	→ TUITION FOR EDUCATION →	= MORE SKILLED WORKFORCE
-------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

Multiple Explanations

However, with a little more thought I can do better than that. Most things in history have multiple explanations.

For instance, the GI Bill did not only offer tuition for education. It also provided low-cost mortgages, and loans to start businesses. So I can write that the government's action worked in THREE ways to help the economy when it passed the GI Bill:

THE GI BILL →	→ TUITION FOR EDUCATION →	= MORE SKILLED WORKFORCE
	→ LOW COST MORTGAGES →	= MORE HOUSE SALES
	→ LOANS TO START A BUSINESS →	= MORE BUSINESSES

And, if you study the relevant point on the webpage, you will see five other government initiatives which helped the economy. So, using them all, I can write an essay plan which looks like this:

THE GI BILL →	→ TUITION FOR EDUCATION →	= MORE SKILLED WORKFORCE
	→ LOW COST MORTGAGES →	= MORE HOUSE SALES
	→ LOANS TO START A BUSINESS →	= MORE BUSINESSES
TRUMAN'S FAIR DEAL →	→ RAISED WAGES →	= MORE MONEY IN THE ECONOMY
	→ CLEARED SLUMS →	= MORE HOUSE-BUILDING
KEYNESIAN ECONOMICS →	→ INVITED BUSINESSMEN →	= MORE CONFIDENCE
	→ FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY ACT →	= MORE MONEY IN THE ECONOMY
FOREIGN AID →	→ USED SURPLUS AGRIC. PRODUCE →	= STIMULUS TO FARMING
EDUCATION →	→ MORE PEOPLE IN COLLEGE →	= MORE SKILLED WORKFORCE

- Using §e of the webpage, develop a grid plan with multiple pathways like the one above for:

"How did industrial modernisation help create the Economic Boom of the 1950s and '60s?"

→ SOMETHING THE GOVT DID	→ EXPLANATION OF HOW →	= STIMULATED THE ECONOMY
	→ EXPLANATION OF HOW →	

- Using §c of the webpage, do the same for:

"How was the Economic Boom of the 1950s and '60s helped by growing demand?"
('Turned round' wording, but the same kind of essay.)