

## PHIL 2606: Knowledge, Reason and Action

### Essay Checklist

When I mark your essays, I will be looking for the following things:

1. The question is clearly stated.
2. The question is answered, and it is made clear that the question has been answered.
  - Don't leave me wondering whether the question has been answered, or how it has been answered.
3. The essay is within the word limit.
  - The word limit is your friend – it forces you to be concise.
4. The structure of the essay is made very clear.
  - Say things like: “I will now ...”, “I will proceed as follows ...”, “I have just ...”, “I have been discussing this because ...”.
5. The writing is clear and simple.
6. Familiar and natural terminology is used whenever possible.
7. Examples are used to illustrate points.
  - Use familiar examples when possible.
8. Claims are supported by argument.
9. Everything is relevant to the question.
10. If the views of others are reported, they are reported accurately.
11. There is a bibliography, and references to it are appropriately made.
12. Footnotes are used appropriately.
13. The essay shows evidence of reading (with comprehension).
14. The essay show evidence of independent thinking.
15. The essay shows understanding of the issues involved.