

寫作學期論文的七個步驟：(一) 小心審題

細讀下面通識科學期論文的題目：

Q1. *In leaving the familiar for the strange, Odysseus seems to have attained self-understanding and growth in the process. Do you think that a journey like Odysseus's is a necessary and important part of life? How does it compare to the "journey" taken by Socrates in The Symposium? Does understanding of the two kinds of journey help you build your identity and face the challenges of modern times?*

你認為哪些是理解上面題目的關鍵字眼？

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> leaving the familiar | <input type="checkbox"/> self-understanding and growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do you think | <input type="checkbox"/> a journey like Odysseus's |
| <input type="checkbox"/> necessary and important part of life | <input type="checkbox"/> compare to |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "journey" taken by Socrates | <input type="checkbox"/> The Symposium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> understanding | <input type="checkbox"/> two kinds of journey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> build your identity | <input type="checkbox"/> face the challenges |



分析

Q1. *In **leaving the familiar** for the strange, Odysseus seems to have attained **self-understanding and growth** in the process. Do you think that a **journey like Odysseus's** is a **necessary and important part of life**? How does it **compare** to the **"journey"** taken by **Socrates** in **The Symposium**? Does understanding of the **two kinds of journey** help you **build your identity** and **face the challenges** of modern times?*

*In **leaving the familiar** for the strange, Odysseus seems to have attained **self-understanding and growth** in the process.*

這句話是整個題目的關鍵：它總結了奧德修斯的旅程——離鄉別井遠走他方，最後有所成長，對自己有更深的認識。下面問題有關旅程與人生的提問，都建基於對奧德修斯之旅的這種理解之上。

*Do you think that a **journey like Odysseus's** is a **necessary and important part of life**?*

基於上述對奧德修斯旅程的理解（性質：遠走他方；結果：了解自己，有所成長），你需要回答這樣的旅程是否人生必須的重要部分。回答是否必須 (**necessary**) 時，你應該考慮是否只有旅程（遠離熟悉的環境）才可以帶來自己認識和成長。當然，旅程也可以是象徵性的，不一定真的離鄉別井，重點在 “leaving the familiar for the strange”。

*How does it **compare** to the **“journey”** taken by Socrates in *The Symposium*?*

「比較」是學期論文或考試題目常常出現的字眼。你需要徹底理解需要比較的內容，這裡即奧德修斯的旅程和《會飲篇》裡蘇格拉底的旅程，二者在性質、過程與結果等方面的異同。

*Does understanding of the **two kinds of journey** help you **build your identity** and **face the challenges** of modern times?*

這一部分問的是你的自我反省，也是學問與現實人生的關係，可是卻不能泛泛而論，而是設有特定範圍：建立自我，以及如何面對現代社會的挑戰。你需要就這兩方面說明上述二者的旅程給你的啓示。

再看下面另一道通識科學期論文的題目：

Q2. *According to The Odyssey, The Analects, and The Nichomachean Ethics, why is friendship important and what can it do for us? Do people become friends in the same way and for the same reason(s) nowadays? Has modern technology brought about a fundamental change in human (including friendly) relationships?*

你認為哪些是理解上面題目的**關鍵字眼**？

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> According to | <input type="checkbox"/> why is friendship important |
| <input type="checkbox"/> what can it do for us | <input type="checkbox"/> become friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in the same way | <input type="checkbox"/> for the same reason(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nowadays | <input type="checkbox"/> modern technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundamental change | <input type="checkbox"/> human relationships |

 分析

Q2. *According to The Odyssey, The Analects, and The Nichomachean Ethics, why is friendship important and what can it do for us? Do people become friends in the same way and for the same reason(s) nowadays? Has modern technology brought about a fundamental change in human (including friendly) relationships?*

According to The Odyssey, The Analects, and The Nichomachean Ethics...

“According to” 設定了題目的範圍，你必須根據題目所列的三部作品作答，而且必須三部都討論。

...why is friendship important and what can it do for us?

上述三部作品涉及許多範疇，題目只要求你討論友誼的重要，以及友誼對我們有什麼用處。注意，這部分問的不是你的個人意見，而是三部作品怎麼說。你必須緊扣作品仔細分析，不能隨想式地寫你的感想。

Has modern technology brought about a fundamental change in human (including friendly) relationships?

我們大概也同意科技改變了人與人的關係，然而題目要求你評論這是不是一種「根本的改變」。題目前面的部分主要討論友誼，這部分的問法給你多點討論空間，除了友誼，也可以同時討論其他的人際關係。