Y‌‌‌‍‍‌‍‍‌‍‌‍‌‍‍‌‌‌‌our answer needs to provide scope for an analytical and/or theoretical discussion of key issues, developments, and policy debates in US-China relations. It must be based on your own research and analysis, using evidence to support your arguments. You do not need to use a major international relations paradigm ([e.g](https://e.g/)., realism, liberalism, constructivism etc.) in the paper. In fact, it is better to concentrate on “small-t” theories and analytical frameworks/devices which allow you to discuss specific aspects of US-China and third-party relations. These could include: balancing/bandwagoning, the rebalance, grand bargains, confidence building measures, the China choice debate, power transition theory, the Thucydides trap etc. The pa‌‌‌‍‍‌‍‍‌‍‌‍‌‍‍‌‌‌‌per should be structured as an essay. This means you need an introduction (that outlines the issue, puzzle, question, previews your argument and provides an essay plan), several sections marked by subheadings (these sections could include background info, theoretical info, different schools or thought, different case studies, different periods, or other unique parts of your argument), and a conclusion (wrapping up briefly your argument and its implications). You must use at least 18 academic sources (academic journal articles or academic books). “Using” a source requires more than simply referencing a data point it discusses. You need to address the arguments, evidence, school of thought, bias, or perspective of the source in ‌‌‌‍‍‌‍‍‌‍‌‍‌‍‍‌‌‌‌some way.