- Online Activity 17.2: *Preparing for TMA 03 (Part 1)* takes you through the process of gathering, selecting and evaluating evidence.

Before you begin to plan this essay, it would be good to review the feedback you received from your tutor for your TMA 02 essay, to see if there is any advice about the essay structure/content and so on, that you could apply to this essay.

Tips for writing your essay

Having worked through the online activities and having identified the process and content words in the essay, it will be helpful to reread the relevant material and make notes with the essay question in mind. When making notes, it may be helpful to specifically identify which points support the idea that research using non-intrusive approaches has made a useful contribution to our study of attachment and which support the counterargument that it has not.

As with Part 2 of TMA 02, it is advisable to use an essay plan to help to organise the points you want to make into a logical structure. Constructing an essay plan will help you to ensure that the essay is addressing the evaluative component of the question.

Remember that while you are required to consider alternative sides of the argument, it is not necessary to have equal numbers of points supporting both sides.

If you are unsure of what to include in the essay, it may be useful to consider the following questions:

- What non-intrusive approaches have been used to study attachments?
- What are the specific advantages of using non-intrusive approaches for studying attachments?
- What are some of the limitations of non-intrusive approaches used to study attachment?
- To what extent have non-intrusive approaches improved our study of attachment?

Remember that the task of the essay is to 'evaluate'; so, while you may want to include some background information, it is important to consider carefully how much background information the reader requires. Most of your essay must be directly focused on evaluating the usefulness of non-intrusive approaches for studying attachment, rather than on describing studies on attachment in general.

Ensure that:

- you pay attention to signposting your essay – make it clear whether you are making a point arguing that non-intrusive approaches are useful, or whether you are making a point that shows the limitations of non-intrusive approaches when it comes to studying attachment; a balanced essay will consider both sides of the argument before you come to a conclusion
- once you have completed your essay, go back to your introduction and make sure that it sets up your essay well, and that it accurately outlines how you will be addressing the question and what you will be arguing