

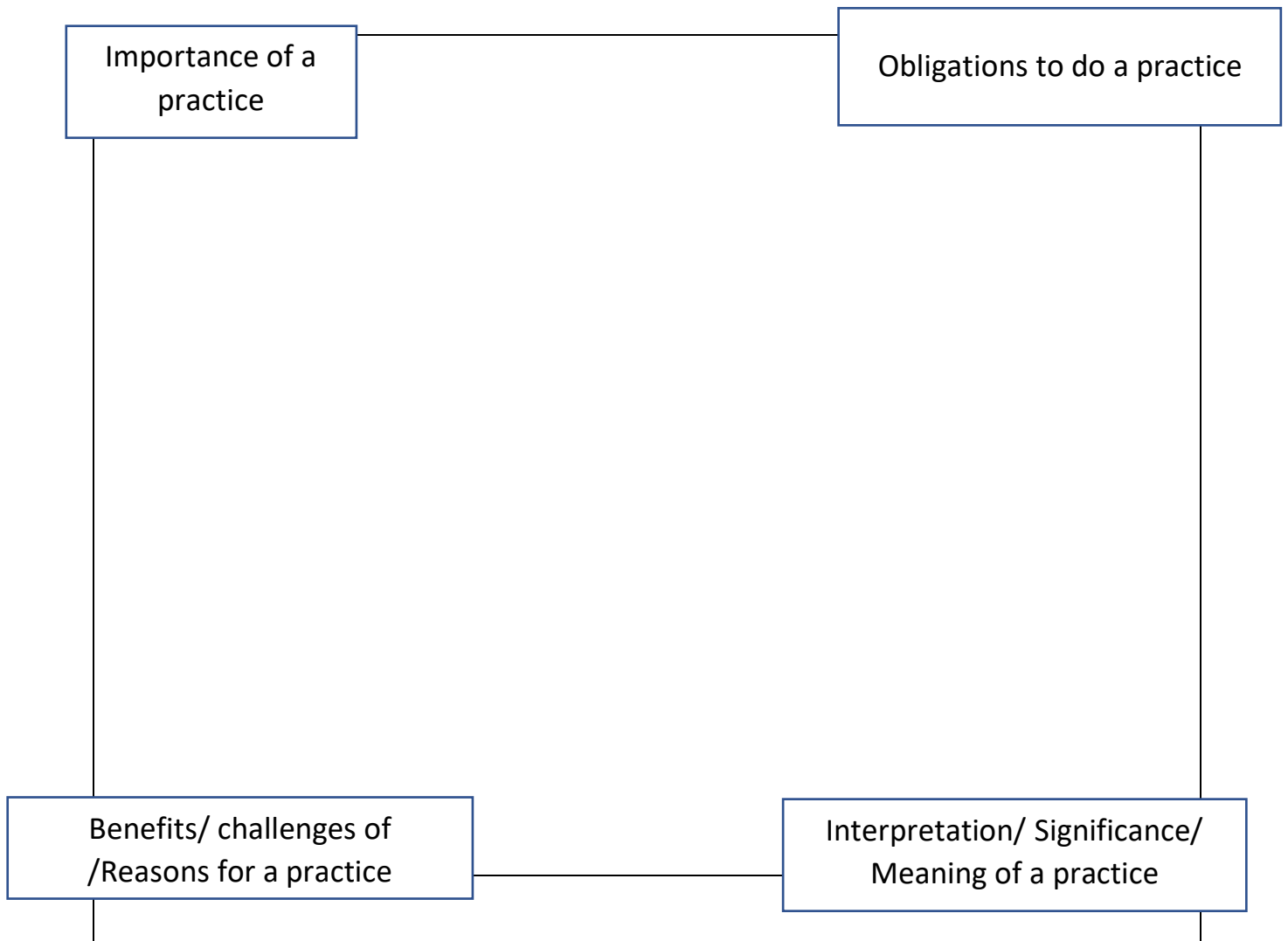
Tim Hunting: Worksheet to support analysis of essay titles:

This worksheet came out of wanting to help students understand the claim that is being made, beyond the actual subject of the essay question. The task aims to help students practise analysing the nature of claims quickly when answering the 12-mark essay evaluation questions. In order to create this task, I first needed to create a typology of the claims, so for each unit I gathered AQA specimen and exam titles (alongside the many others found in RE textbooks and revision guides). In the practices exam paper, the types were: importance, the challenges of a practice; the meaning of it, the way it is done. Although not exhaustive, these cover a wide range.

In our discussions as a group of teachers of these essay banks and the subdivisions, there was some discussion about the discrete nature of these categories, however, it certainly helped students see beyond the subject of the claim to analyse more carefully, and me to progress to prepare the different kinds of support material to tackle the different types of questions- so claims about importance- a common type, require an analysis of what we mean by the concept of 'importance'. As teachers we all contributed from our experience and existing practice to a discussion of this.

In order to hone the skill of analysing claims in students, I then created a worksheet consisting of a box with one of the four different types labelled in each corner, and asked students to situate each one of a numbered list of different claims below from across the specification into the different categories, or if overlapping, to put it between the two different types.

Students said they found the task helpful in analysing claims and become more sensitive to types of claims.



**Task: look at the essay questions below. Which of the four kinds of questions are they?**

**How sure are you?**

**very sure- write number right in the corner**

**if mixed, place between the two relevant sections of the square:**

1. 'The best way for Christians to reach an understanding of God is to practise prayer'
2. 'Infant baptism is not as important as believer's baptism'
3. Holy Communion should focus more on the Liturgy of the Word than on Holy Communion itself'
4. Pilgrimage is just an excuse for a holiday'
5. Private worship has more meaning for a Christian than private worship'
6. 'The presence of the body and blood of Christ is what makes the Eucharist important'
7. 'It is more important to study the Qur'an during Ramadan than it is to fast
8. 'The most important reason to give zakah or khums is because it teaches Muslims to have a good attitude to money'
9. 'Jihad should not be understood in terms of holy war'.
10. 'Ramadan is not necessary as Muslims should always live an Allah-centred life'
11. ' The best way for Muslims to understand God is to practise salah'
12. 'Muslims should recite the Shahadah daily'

