Your assignment should demonstrate your understanding of the topic and address the task at hand comprehensively. To improve your marks in this area consider the following:

## Addressing the Task
Ensuring your assignment addresses the task at hand may seem obvious, but often there are a range of requirements you need to fulfil and a clear set of expectations. Your assignment brief and the marking criteria are there to guide you: follow these carefully to make sure you do not lose marks by going off track. Before you start writing, analyse the assignment title carefully: what type of assignment is it – an essay, a report, a literature review? What are you being asked to do – analyse, compare, discuss? Are there specific aspects or viewpoints of the topic you need to address?

## Analysing and Answering the Question
As you plan your work, look at each section of content and make sure it is relevant and clear. Stay on track and don’t go off on a tangent; no matter how good your writing is on a different topic, it will not get you marks if it doesn’t address the task in hand. As you edit your work, ask yourself: have I answered the question? Have I drifted from the main point? Remove anything which is not relevant to the topic or to your argument.

## Demonstrating Understanding of the Topic
Read and refer to the recommended readings both to build your understanding of the topic and to show your interpretation of different viewpoints. Look beyond your reading list: find and refer to relevant additional sources to demonstrate deeper knowledge, but make sure these are authoritative, up to date and relevant. Don’t over – quote sources, but show that you understand by paraphrasing or summarising them and comment critically on them. Read your work out loud to make sure it is clear and to the point. Ask yourself: will it make sense to someone else reading it?