

## Question

**In order to achieve academic success it is important to not only set specific goals and plan how to reach them but also to check if you are on schedule for achieving your goals. As an open distance learner discuss why it is important to set goals in your academic endeavour. Elaborate how setting goals can determine your success in Wawasan Open University.**

As students, we aspire to pass all our examinations and achieve academic success. In view of this aspiration, we must set specific goals and plan how to reach these goals. As we work hard to reach our target, it is also important to constantly check if we are on schedule towards achieving our goals.

**Comment [v1]:** The introduction is straight to the point and clarifies the main issue.  
However, candidate could have also stated the scope of discussion to give further direction for the essay. E.g.: *In this essay, I will discuss the importance of setting goals and working towards achieving these goals.*

Goals are important and useful in many ways. When we have goals, we will be able to maintain our focus and work towards achieving that goal. This way, we will not get distracted and fall behind in our schedule. If my goal is to achieve 'A' in this course, I must concentrate and work hard to achieve it. By focusing on my goal to achieve 'A', I will not waste time elsewhere but instead, will try to study the subject as thoroughly as possible.

**Comment [v2]:** The first main idea is well introduced!

Secondly, when we have goals, we will tend to direct our efforts in attaining the set goal. We will not waste our energy in doing something that is not useful or does not contribute towards achieving that goal. Since my goal is to achieve an 'A' in this course, I will ensure that I spend more time and effort to understand the subject matter and the requirements of the course better. I will also do extra reading and exercises pertaining to the course. Having this goal ensures that I make constructive use of my time.

**Comment [v3]:** Candidate has provided relevant explanation and elaboration of idea 1. The personal example here is an great way to illustrate understanding and interpretation of the question.

**Comment [v4]:** Good use of signal words to indicate presentation of subsequent idea.

When we are focused and direct our efforts towards achieving our goal, we will be able to keep up with our assignments. Assignments that are completed on time will give us a sense of accomplishment. When I finish my assignments promptly, I will be able to clear any doubts and verify certain issues with my tutors and classmates. I will also be able to learn from the mistakes I may have made in completing the assignments. This in turn, will encourage me to further my efforts and strengthen my resolve to achieve my academic success.

**Comment [v5]:** Candidate has provided further explanation to idea 2 and linked this idea and example to the one used in the previous paragraph.

**Comment [v6]:** Linking of ideas from previous paragraphs provides an excellent flow to the essay.

**Comment [v7]:** The explanation and elaboration here supports idea 3.

Finally, when we know that we have been persistently doing our work and completing our assignments on time, our self-esteem will be boosted. Furthermore, having a fixed and substantial goal will motivate us to work towards that goal. We will be confident because we know what is it that we want to achieve. We will not be drifting aimlessly, not knowing what to do and then panicking when examinations approach.

**Comment [v8]:** Good way to indicate the final idea.

**Comment [v9]:** This explanation does validate idea 4. Candidate could have included the examples as used in the preceding paragraphs.

As students currently enrolled at Wawasan Open University, we should all aim to graduate as first-rate students. In order to achieve this, we must set our academic goals immediately and work hard to achieve these goals. By studying conscientiously and correctly, as well as focusing our efforts, we will inevitably yield excellent results.

**Comment [v10]:** Relates back to the question. Well done!

**Comment [v11]:** Tallies with introduction and body. Good closure of ideas

*This candidate has produced a fine piece of work. The ideas are presented in a coherent way and the language is error-free.*

*The elaboration/explanation and examples are laid out systematically. This and the well-planned paragraphs have resulted in a smooth flow of ideas.*

*Since the candidate has the relevant information, the paragraphs can be further developed to substantiate the ideas.*

In the essay, the candidate has provided four main points in answering the question. They are:

- (i) to maintain focus
- (ii) to direct efforts to attain the set goals
- (iii) to be able to keep up with assignments
- (iv) to raise self-esteem and confidence

By elaborating on each of the four main points, the candidate has put together a coherent piece of answer. The quality of the essay is further enhanced with personal experiences which are relevant to the topic. The conclusion or closure is also effective as it tallies with the introduction.

However, the candidate has not reverted to the question which requires **an open distance learner's** standpoint. Hence, the essay would have been an excellent piece of work had the candidate addressed the issue of setting goals in view of the challenges faced by ODL students. Moreover, the answer here is straightforward and rather simplistic, not reflecting the work of an undergraduate student.

By addressing these issues, this essay would appear more discursive and critical, thus enhancing it.