**Handout 1: The ‘Team Challenge’ Model:**

**Setting up the teams:**

* Basic model is 4 teams: red, blue, yellow and green
* These should be mixed ability – so group according to their GCSE score or according to what you’ve perceived of their ability from marked work. Teams should be changed half-termly without fail.
* Display the score ‘thermometers’ and teams on a board in your classroom (one for each team)

**Running the competition – a few rules:**

* Team Challenge runs half-termly (e.g. from September to the October half term and so on)
* You should work in up to 3 ‘Team Challenge’ activities a week (mixed activities)
* You should make it clear to the group what is a Team Challenge task and what isn’t
* **All** homework essays and mock essays are to be Team Challenges
* Team Challenge score updates\* are to be done following each homework return – it must be made clear who has achieved what – even if they have handed in nothing (see attached example) (\*you should do regular updates to maintain motivation)
* The team in the lead should be marked with a star so that students can follow progress easily
* Set a combination of individual tasks, paired tasks and whole team tasks

**Scoring suggestions:**

* Grades on essays can be converted into numerical scores as below:

*A = 10 pts*

*B = 8 pts*

*C = 6 pts*

*D = 4 pts*

*E = 2 pts*

*U = 0 pts*

*No hand in = 0 pts*

*Absent and didn’t catch up on missed work: 0 pts*

* In regards to essay grades, add scores together for group members and work out an average score. **You MUST include students who haven’t handed in the division so that their lack of effort is seen to affect the whole team.**
* All homework essays and mock essay should be added to team scores
* Essays used as exemplar essays get bonus pts for their team (I gave them 5pts)
* Optional practice essays a student produces should earn bonus pts for their team (Again, I gave them 5)
* On score update slides you should endeavour to mark out the top two scorers in each team. This can be varied to mark out the best improvers from the last task of the same focus.
* You should – where appropriate – explain why a team has won: reward marks for team work as well as the finished product (see example of feedback attached)
* Possible variations: you can, if you wish, double the average pt score of a team in which every member meets the homework deadline

**Prize Giving:**

* Prizes should be for 1st and 2nd place
* The winning team(s) should be announced on the last lesson of the half term: you should make a point of announcing 4th place through to 1st
* Prizes are at your discretion – I did edible prizes: 1st place tended to get an Easter egg at Easter or a chocolate Santa at Christmas and 2nd prize tended to be chocolate coins in Christmas or a mini Lindt bunny at Easter. Look out for deals in the supermarkets and pound shops. Stationary also makes a good prise: you can buy all sorts of stationary in Sainsbury’s really cheaply. If you aren’t keen on paying for prizes, be clear that the prize is that they go on the ‘commemoration’ board.
* The winning team members are to be ‘commemorated’ in a display – this can simply be a sheet with the winners’ names on displayed on a board