Conclusions

How successful are these concluding paragraphs in addressing the essay questions? Consider how they:

1. summarise the main arguments and themes.
2. state your general conclusions.
3. make it clear why those conclusions are significant.
4. refer back to the essay question, and directly address it or "answer" it
5. make recommendations, or suggest a way forward.
6. NOT contain new material

a) Essay title: ‘Why is the definition of poverty so deeply contested?’

Jackson states that “there has been a general move towards understanding poverty in terms which are not only material but subjective and cultural, and not only individual but social”. There has been understanding and acceptance of the multiple facets of poverty, but there is still debate over its definition. As Du Toit states, there are “multidimensional links between poverty and powerlessness”. This goes to show that there are not only mere links between poverty and other paradigms and concepts, but “multidimensional links”. Until these links are broken down and understood and defined, a core definition of poverty cannot be assigned.

b) Essay title: ‘In this age of terrorism has the UK managed to strike a suitable balance between defending national security whilst protecting human rights? Discuss”.

In conclusion, in recent years the government has reacted to terrorism with anti-terrorist legislation curtailing our freedom and placing considerable power in the hands of the executive. In a democracy where civil liberties are at the heart of our beliefs it is vital that we do not allow our governments to erode the very values that terrorists seek to destroy. The success with which we can defend liberty in the face of counter-terrorism legislation depends upon the court’s ability to review the actions of the executive in the sphere of national security. As Arden comments (2005:4) the approach taken by the House of Lords in this case represents a ‘positive, flexible’ step forward to such review. Indeed, it is advisable to go one step further and say that greater interrogation by the courts to the executive would be likely to improve the protection of civil liberties.
c) Essay title: Examine the social and economic consequences of a rapidly growing elderly population and a falling birth-rate.

Many problems caused by the surge in the elderly population and a falling birth rate are strongly linked to the development of society. In other words, modernization and industrialisation have given rise to these unprecedented phenomena. Thus, many of the demands on the economy, the health services and the labour force which are caused by an ageing society have to be coped with by adapting present developed societies. We need to take action to address these demands materially, financially and psychologically.

d) Essay title: Are there any circumstances in which unemployment can be considered a good thing?

I have pointed out how important the unemployment rate can be for a political system as well as the state of mind of the entire population. Further, I have tried to focus on the problem from a scientific perspective trying to show the trade off relationship between rates of inflation and unemployment rates. All in all, the importance of unemployment must be underlined as a social issue. Most European governments recognize the priority position of the issue, but only the future will show whether they are able to solve the immense problems related to high rates of unemployment such as a depressed economy, high rates of crime and social exclusion. Given the seriousness of these social consequences, few could argue that mass unemployment could ever be considered a good thing.
Answer:

a) This paragraph could be improved with a quote which is more directly linked to the difficulty in agreeing upon a definition for poverty.

b) This is a good conclusion as it specifically addresses the question of balance and examines whether civil liberties have been eroded and how they can be protected.

c) The paragraph only really deals with the development of society and fails to clearly summarise the socio-economic consequences of a rising elderly population.

d) Only the final sentence really addresses the title. The preceding sentences are more of a commentary on unemployment.