**Instructions: The prepared essay must meet the following criteria:**

1. **Be based on your reading and research relevant to the topic.  
   Be 5 to 6 double-spaced pages, not including the title page, executive summary, appendices, exhibits, and references.**

**(Not less than 1430 words)**

1. **Include a one-page Executive Summary immediately following the title page that includes a statement of the major issue(s) and your conclusions and specific recommendations. The content of an Executive Summary is similar to an abstract.**
2. **Properly cite reference sources: these may include course material, information from magazines, journals, and online sources. All reference sources must have a publication date within the last fifteen years. Students who wish to use an older source publication should contact the instructor with the request and reason.**

**(At least 4 References)**

**This is the essay: It can be any one out of these three topics**

Essay Topics/Individual Research Paper: Select one of the following topics  
**1. Ratio and Financial Statement Analysis** –

Your essay should critically analyze the benefits and limitations of ratio analysis, explaining what factors impact the meaningfulness of such measures and what new practices or theories may be emerging regarding the application of ratio and financial statement analysis. Emphasize practical applications and real-world use of ratios synthesizing your readings in published research or survey articles.  
**2. Challenges faced by Financial Managers in a Changing Economic Environment**Your essay should critically asses the challenges faced by financial managers due to changes in the macroeconomic environment and how these impact businesses operations. Emphasize how there are consequences related to changes in strategies and priorities and in the way the departments adjust.  
**3. Financial Management Practices and Their Impact on Organizational Performance:**   
Your essay should critically asses the relationship between organizational performance and financial management practices. These include capital structure decision, investment appraisal techniques, dividend policy, working capital management and financial performance assessment.