

**Southside High School**  
**An International Baccalaureate School**



Extended Essay Handbook  
2023-2024

## THE EXTENDED ESSAY AT A GLANCE

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The extended essay is an in-depth study of a focused topic chosen from the list of available Diploma Programme subjects for the session in question. This is normally one of the student's six chosen subjects for those taking the IB diploma, or a subject that a course student has a background in. It is intended to promote academic research and writing skills, providing students with an opportunity to engage in personal research in a topic of their own choice, under the guidance of a supervisor (an appropriately qualified member of staff within the school). This leads to a major piece of formally presented, structured writing, in which ideas and findings are communicated in a reasoned and coherent manner, appropriate to the subject chosen. It is mandatory that all students undertake at least three, but no more than six reflection sessions with their supervisor, which includes a short, concluding interview, or *viva voce*, with their supervisor following the completion of the extended essay. An assessment of this reflection process is made under criterion E (Engagement) using the *Reflections on planning and progress form*.

The extended essay is assessed against common criteria, interpreted in ways appropriate to each subject. Each student will have a supervisor to assist with the essay.

## KEY FEATURES OF THE EXTENDED ESSAY

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- The extended essay is compulsory for all students taking the Diploma Programme and is an option for course students.
- A student must achieve a D grade or higher to be awarded the Diploma.
- The extended essay is externally assessed and, in combination with the grade for theory of knowledge, contributes up to three points to the total score for the IB Diploma.
- The extended essay process helps prepare students for success at university and in other pathways beyond the Diploma Programme.
- When choosing a subject for the extended essay, students must consult the list of available Diploma Programme subjects published in the *Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme* for the session in question.
- The extended essay is a piece of independent research on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with a supervisor in the school.
- It is presented as a formal piece of sustained academic writing containing no more than 4,000 words accompanied by a reflection form of no more than 500 words.
- It is the result of approximately 40 hours of work by the student.
- Students are supported by a supervision process recommended to be 3–5 hours, which includes three mandatory reflection sessions.
- The third and final mandatory reflection session is the *viva voce*, which is a concluding interview with the supervising teacher.

## AIMS OF THE EXTENDED ESSAY

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The aims of the extended essay are for students to:

- engage in independent research with intellectual initiative and rigor
- develop research, thinking, self-management and communication skills
- reflect on what has been learned throughout the research and writing process.

## Assessment Objectives

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In working on the extended essay, students are expected to achieve the following assessment objectives.

Assessment objectives	
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the topic chosen and the research question posed.</li><li>• To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of subject specific terminology and/or concepts.</li><li>• To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant and/or appropriate research sources and/or methods used to gather information.</li></ul>
Application and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To select and apply research that is relevant and appropriate to the research question.</li><li>• To analyse the research effectively and focus on the research question.</li></ul>
Synthesis and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be able to discuss the research in terms of a clear and coherent reasoned argument in relation to the research question.</li><li>• To be able to critically evaluate the arguments presented in the essay.</li><li>• To be able to reflect on and evaluate the research process.</li></ul>
A variety of (research) skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be able to present information in an appropriate academic format.</li><li>• To understand and demonstrate academic integrity.</li></ul>

## Supporting the Extended Essay

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### The Supervisor

The supervisor–student working relationship is probably the most important one in the extended essay process. The supervisor must be a suitably qualified member of staff at the school in which the student is registered. Students select their EE supervisor based on that person’s knowledge and interest in the EE topic area. Students should ask a potential supervisor if they are interested and willing to serve in this capacity. Once the supervisor is confirmed, the EE classroom teacher will provide them with the proper

documentation and guidelines regarding the EE.

The supervisor plays an important role in helping students to plan and undertake their research for the extended essay. The relationship should be an active two-way process with the supervisor primarily there to support and guide the student, during the **supervision and reflection sessions**, at the planning stage, and **when the student is carrying out and writing up their research**. This is done through the supervision process, including the **three, but no more than six mandatory reflection sessions** and **the completion of the Reflections on planning and progress form**.

It is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that students are familiar with the requirements of the extended essay. Supervisors and students must discuss:

- the nature of the extended essay
- their chosen subject, topic and research question
- the most appropriate research methods to be used given the subject for which the student is submitting their essay
- the formal requirements for the completion of the task.

Supervisors are required to:

- undertake at least three, but no more than six mandatory reflection sessions with each student they are supervising
- initial and date each reflection summarized on the Reflections on planning and progress form and provide comments at the end of the process. If the form and essay are submitted via the eCoursework system, then it is deemed signed and authenticated. An RPPF that is blank, unsubmitted, or written in a language other than that of the essay, will be awarded a 0 for criterion E.
- provide students with advice and guidance in the skills of undertaking research
- encourage and support students throughout the research and writing of the extended essay
- discuss the choice of topic with each student and, in particular, help to formulate a well-focused research question which is suitable to the subject of registration and ensure that the chosen research question satisfies appropriate legal and ethical standards with regard to health and safety, confidentiality, human rights, animal welfare and environmental issues
- is familiar with the regulations governing the extended essay and the assessment criteria, and gives copies of these to students
- monitor the progress of the extended essay to offer guidance and to ensure that the essay is the student's own work (this may include presenting a section of the essay for supervisor comment)
- read and comment on **one draft only** of the extended essay (**but do not edit the draft**); this should take place after the interim reflection session, but before the final reflection session, the viva voce
- ensure that the final version of the essay is handed in before the final reflection session (viva voce) takes place, and that no changes are made to it

subsequently read the final version and, in conjunction with the viva voce, confirm its authenticity.



## The Student

As the extended essay is an important component of the Diploma Programme, and a substantial piece of work, students need to ensure that they understand the expectations of the task and manage their time and workload effectively. The following suggestions are given as guidance to help with this process.

Students are **strongly** recommended to:

- develop a Researcher’s reflection space as a planning tool
- use the Researcher’s reflection space to prepare for reflection sessions
- share excerpts from the Researcher’s reflection space with the supervisor during the reflection sessions
- choose a subject, followed by a topic, and then think carefully about the research question for their essay
- plan how, when and where they will find material and sources for their essay before deciding on the final topic and research question
- plan a schedule for both the researching and writing of their extended essay, including extra time for delays and unforeseen problems
- record sources as their research progresses using their Researcher’s reflection space rather than trying to reconstruct a list at the end
- make the most of their supervision and reflection sessions by arriving prepared to discuss their work
- have a clear structure for the essay before beginning to write
- check and proofread the final version of their extended essay
- make sure that the version they submit for assessment is the final version with all sources correctly and consistently referenced
- ensure that all requirements are met

### Quick glance: the role of the student

 Do:	 Do not:
choose a subject and then topic that interests you and allows you to develop and demonstrate your understanding, creativity and/or originality	choose a topic or research question that you have seen in exemplars and that have been done too many times before
develop a Researcher’s reflection space that will facilitate planning and preparation for reflection sessions	overlook the importance of planning and how this can contribute to success in your extended essay

make the most of your supervisor's availability to guide you in the process	try to construct a list of references at the end of the process—be aware of the implications of poor/inadequate referencing.
prepare for reflection sessions appropriately	
meet all internal deadlines	
maintain a reference list as you work	
familiarize yourself with relevant policies.	

## Researcher's reflection space

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Student reflection in the extended essay is critical. Effective reflection highlights the engagement of the student in an intellectual and personal process and how this has changed the student as a learner and affected the completion of that individual's essay. The IB considers this to be a central component of a successful research process as it:

- supports student learning, thinking and critical analysis throughout the research process
- helps to stimulate discussions between the student and supervisor
- aids the reflection process

The RRS is a personal learning environment that can be either a physical or virtual support tool. It is a space in which students are able to record reflections on what they are reading, writing and thinking. The use of the RRS will help students to prepare for their reflection sessions with their supervisors and inform the discussions that take place. In preparing for their reflection sessions students could use their RRS to:

- record their reflections
- respond to artefacts, such as photos, newspaper clippings, twitter feeds, blogs, and so on
- respond to prompts and questions that may arise in the students' subject areas, TOK classes or other aspects of the Diploma Programme
- create MindMaps<sup>®</sup>;
- record emerging questions.

The idea of the RRS is not new and many students already keep research journals in the planning, researching and writing phases of their work on the extended essay. Encouraging students to develop a RRS will provide benefits in terms of the management of their workload and focus on their extended essay.

### The Student-Supervisor Relationship

Students should use the RRS to prepare for their reflection sessions with their supervisors.

Reflection session	Description
The first reflection session	<p>Students are encouraged to include in their RRS examples of initial topic exploration, possible sources and methods, preliminary research questions and their personal reactions to the issues.</p> <p>In attending their first reflection session with their supervisor, students can use notes made in the RRS as the basis for discussion as well as to demonstrate the progress students have made in the research process.</p>
The interim reflection session	<p>As their RRS develops, students can demonstrate the progress of their thinking, the development of their argument and raise any questions they may have with their supervisor.</p> <p>At this stage the RRS may include reactions to readings, progress in the timeline for completion of the extended essay, a possible outline of arguments, challenges encountered and the strategies used to overcome them.</p>
The final reflection session— <i>viva voce</i>	<p>During the <i>viva voce</i>, which takes place at the completion of the extended essay process, the RRS can form the basis for discussion about the process of completing the essay. Students can show what they have learned about the topic, the research process followed, their own learning, as well as outlining new questions they have uncovered. Most importantly, during the <i>viva voce</i> the RRS may help to highlight the personal significance of the work to the student and ultimately contribute to the supervisor's report.</p>

## **Developing a Research Question**

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### **Choose a subject and topic that is of interest.**

Deciding on a subject and topic that is of interest and in which the student is personally invested is important if their motivation is to be sustained throughout the process. The student should be able to identify, in a broad sense, what it is that they are interested in and why.

### **Carry out preliminary reading.**

After deciding on a topic of interest students should undertake some general reading around the issue. Questions they must consider at this stage are:

- What has already been written about this topic?
- Was it easy to find sources of information?
- Is there a range of different sources available?
- Is there a range of views or perspectives on the topic?
- What interesting questions have started to emerge from this reading?

### **Consider the emerging questions.**

The student should now begin posing open-ended questions about their general topic. These questions will usually be framed using the terms “how”, “why” or “to what extent”.

### **Evaluate the question.**

Once possible research questions have been posed they should be evaluated. This evaluation should be based on whether the research question is clear, focused, and arguable.

- Clear: Will the reader understand the nature of my research? Will it direct the research being undertaken?
- Focused: Will the research question be specific enough to allow for exploration within the scope of the task (that is, the number of words and time available)?
- Arguable: Does the research question allow for analysis, evaluation and the development of reasoned argument?

### **Consider research outcomes.**

Once a provisional research question has been decided upon, students should start thinking about the direction their research might take. This could be in terms of:

- Suggesting possible outcomes of the research
- Outlining the kind of argument the might make and how the research might support this
- Considering options if the research available is not sufficient to support a sustained argument.

## **Essay Structure**

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The structure of the essay is very important. It helps students to organize the argument, making the best use of the evidence collected.

There are six required elements of the final work to be submitted. *Please note that the order in which these elements are presented here is not necessarily the order in which they should be written.*

1. Title page
2. Contents page
3. Introduction
4. Body of the essay
5. Conclusion
6. References and bibliography



## **Title page**

The title page should include **only** the following information:

- the title of the essay
- the research question
- the subject for which the essay is registered (if it is a language essay also state which category it falls into; if a world studies essay also state the theme and the two subjects utilized)
- word count.

The title of your essay should be a clear, focused summative statement of your research, which gives the reader an indication of your research topic. It should **not** be phrased as a research question.

## **Contents page**

A contents page must be provided at the beginning of the extended essay and all pages should be numbered. Please note that an index page is not required and if included will be treated as if it is not present.

## **Introduction**

The introduction should tell the reader what to expect in the essay. The introduction should make clear to the reader the focus of the essay, the scope of the research, in particular an indication of the sources to be used, and an insight into the line of argument to be taken.

While students should have a sense of the direction and key focus of their essay, it is sometimes advisable to finalize the introduction once the body of the essay is complete.

## **Body of the essay (research, analysis, discussion and evaluation)**

The main task is writing the body of the essay, which should be presented in the form of a reasoned argument. The form of this varies with the subject of the essay, but as the argument develops it should be clear to the reader what relevant evidence has been discovered, where/how it has been discovered and how it supports the argument. In some subjects (for example, the sciences) sub-headings within the main body of the essay will help the reader to understand the argument (and will also help the student to keep on track). In structuring their extended essay, students must take into consideration the expected conventions of the subject in which their extended essay is registered.

Once the main body of the essay is complete, it is possible to finalize the introduction (which tells the reader what to expect) and the conclusion (which says what has been achieved, including notes of any limitations and any questions that have not been resolved).

Any information that is important to the argument **must not** be included in appendices or footnotes/endnotes. The examiner **will not** read notes or appendices, so an essay that is not complete in itself will be compromised across the assessment criteria.

## Conclusion

The conclusion says what has been achieved, including notes of any limitations and any questions that have not been resolved. While students might draw conclusions throughout the essay based on their findings, it is important that there is a final, summative conclusion at the end. This conclusion(s) must relate to the research question posed.

## References and bibliography

Students should use their chosen style of academic referencing as soon as they start writing. That way they are less likely to forget to include a citation. It is also easier than trying to add references at a later stage. For more information on this, refer to the guidelines in the IB document *Effective citing and referencing*.

Writing the essay takes time, but if students have used their Researcher's reflection space and reflection sessions in a meaningful way they should be well prepared to develop their arguments.

## Presentation

The extended essay should be written in a clear, correct and formal academic style, appropriate to the subject from which the topic is drawn. Given that the extended essay is a formally written research paper, it should strive to maintain a professional, academic look.

To help achieve this, the following formatting is **required**:

- the use of 12-point, readable font
- double spacing
- page numbering
- no candidate or school name on the title page or page headers.

Submitting the extended essay in the required format will help set the tone of the essay and will aid readability for on-screen assessment by examiners.



## Word counts

The upper limit is 4,000 words for all extended essays.

**Please note:** Examiners are instructed not to read or assess any material in excess of the word limit. This means that essays containing more than 4,000 words will be compromised across all assessment criteria. Given the holistic nature of the assessment criteria, students who write in excess of the word limit will self-penalize across all criteria. For example, in criterion B, any knowledge and understanding demonstrated beyond the 4,000-word limit will be treated as if it were not present; in criterion C, analysis, discussion or evaluation made beyond the 4,000-word limit will be treated as if the point had not been made.

Supervisors and students should be aware that the e-upload of extended essays will facilitate the automatic recognition of a cut-off point for assessment. Students should ensure that they remain within the word limit and should edit accordingly.

Please refer to the following:

 Included in the word count:	 Not included in the word count:
The introduction	The contents page
The main body	Maps, charts, diagrams, annotated illustrations
The conclusion	Tables
Quotations	Equations, formulas, and calculations
Footnotes and / or endnotes that are not references	Citations / references (whether parenthetical, numbered, footnotes or endnotes)
	The bibliography
	The <i>Reflections on planning and progress form</i>

### Illustrations

Presentation and overall neatness are important, and it is essential that illustrative material, if included, is well set out and used effectively. Graphs, diagrams, tables and maps are effective only if they are clearly labelled and can be interpreted with ease.

Any labelling should contain the minimum information to ensure the examiner understands the significance of the map, chart, diagram or illustration. It must not include commentary, as this will be considered as part of the essay discussion and thus included in the word count.

All such material that is incorporated into the extended essay must be directly related to the text and acknowledged where appropriate. The use of photographs and other images is acceptable only if they are captioned and/or annotated and are used to illustrate a specific point made in the extended essay. Students should be advised to use illustrations with caution as excessive use may detract from the discussion in the essay. They should only be used if they are relevant and appropriate to a point being made as part of the argument of the essay.

### Tables

The use of tables should be considered carefully and are only really appropriate in certain subjects. Tables must not be used in an attempt to circumvent the word limit.

### **Footnotes and endnotes**

Footnotes and endnotes may be used for referencing purposes and if this is the case will not be included in the word count of the essay. If information is contained in a footnote or endnote and is not a reference, this **must** be included in the word count. In order to avoid confusion and unwittingly exceed the word limit, students are advised to avoid using footnotes or endnotes other than for referencing purposes unless it is appropriate.

As footnotes and endnotes are not an essential part of the extended essay students must take care to ensure that all information with direct relevance to the analysis, discussion and evaluation of their essay is contained in the main body of it.

An essay that attempts to evade the word limit by including important material in footnotes or endnotes will be compromised across the assessment criteria. Please note that footnotes and endnotes are added to the word count as they are encountered.

### **Appendices**

Appendices are not an essential part of the extended essay and examiners will not read them, or use any information contained within them, in the assessment of the essay. Students must take care to ensure that all information with direct relevance to the analysis, discussion and evaluation of their essay is contained in the main body of it. Appendices should therefore be avoided except in the following instances:

- an exemplar of a questionnaire or interview questions
- an exemplar of permission letters
- group 1, category 1 essays: copies of poems or short stories (of less than three pages)
- group 1, category 3 essays: excerpts from newspapers, advertisements and transcripts of speeches
- language acquisition, category 1 and 2: excerpts from newspapers, advertisements, transcripts of speeches, etc.
- language acquisition, category 3: excerpts or copies of poems or short stories (less than 3 pages)
- an external mentor letter, where one has been used
- raw data or statistical tables for experimental sciences (this should not include any analysis or conclusions).

Students should not continually refer to material presented in an appendix as this may disrupt the continuity of the essay and examiners are not required to refer to them.

### **Reliance on external resources**

Irrespective of the subject, the extended essay should be a complete piece of independent research, modelled on an academic journal/research paper, which can exist and be understood on its own, without the need to access external links, such as hyperlinks, or accompanying material such as DVDs.

Examiners will not access any material contained in an external source when assessing an essay. Material that is pertinent to the argument being made must be contained in the essay itself to be considered by examiners in their assessment of it.

As with appendices, if information central to the argument is included in the external link, it is treated as though the point has not been made and as such could affect different criteria, for example, criterion C (critical thinking), depending on the quality of the other analyses.

### Specimen materials

Specimen materials used in, or produced by, investigations do not form part of the extended essay and must **not** be submitted. Photographic evidence may be submitted in place of such material.

### Academic honesty

Research practices when working on an extended essay must reflect the principles of academic honesty. The essay must provide the reader with the **precise** sources of quotations, ideas and points of view through accurate citations, which may be in-text or footnotes, and full references listed in the bibliography, which, regardless of the system used, must ensure the minimum requirements.

Producing accurate references and a bibliography is a skill that students should be seeking to refine as part of the extended essay writing process. Documenting the research in this way is vital: it allows readers to evaluate the evidence for themselves, and it shows the student's understanding of the importance of the sources used.

**Failure to comply with this requirement will be viewed as academic misconduct and will, therefore, be treated as a potential breach of IB regulations.**

## Assessment

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### Overview

Criterion A: focus and method	Criterion B: knowledge and understanding	Criterion C: critical thinking	Criterion D: presentation	Criterion E: engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic</li> <li>• Research question</li> <li>• Methodology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Context</li> <li>• Subject-specific terminology and concepts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Analysis</li> <li>• Discussion and evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure</li> <li>• Layout</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process</li> <li>• Research focus</li> </ul>
Marks	Marks	Marks	Marks	Marks
6	6	12	4	6

### Criterion A: Focus and method

This criterion focuses on the topic, the research question and the methodology. It assesses the explanation of the focus of the research (this includes the topic and the research question), how the research will be undertaken, and how the focus is maintained throughout the essay.

Level	Descriptor of strands and indicators
0	<b>The work does not reach a standard outlined by the descriptors below.</b>
1–2	<b>The topic is communicated unclearly and incompletely.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification and explanation of the topic is limited; the purpose and focus of the research is unclear, or does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject for which it is registered.</li></ul> <b>The research question is stated but not clearly expressed or too broad.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The research question is too broad in scope to be treated effectively within the word limit and requirements of the task, or does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject for which it is registered.</li><li>• The intent of the research question is understood but has not been clearly expressed and/or the discussion of the essay is not focused on the research question.</li></ul> <b>Methodology of the research is limited.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The source(s) and/or method(s) to be used are limited in range given the topic and research question.</li><li>• There is limited evidence that their selection was informed.</li></ul>
3–4	<b>The topic is communicated.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification and explanation of the research topic is communicated; the purpose and focus of the research is adequately clear, but only partially appropriate.</li></ul> <b>The research question is clearly stated but only partially focused.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The research question is clear but the discussion in the essay is only partially focused and connected to the research question.</li></ul> <b>Methodology of the research is mostly complete.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Source(s) and/or method(s) to be used are generally relevant and appropriate given the topic and research question.</li><li>• There is some evidence that their selection(s) was informed.</li></ul> <b>If the topic or research question is deemed inappropriate for the subject in which the essay is registered no more than four marks can be awarded for this criterion.</b>
5–6	<b>The topic is communicated accurately and effectively.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification and explanation of the research topic is effectively communicated; the purpose and focus of the research is clear and appropriate.</li></ul> <b>The research question is clearly stated and focused.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The research question is clear and addresses an issue of research that is appropriately connected to the discussion in the essay.</li></ul> <b>Methodology of the research is complete.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An appropriate range of relevant source(s) and/or method(s) have been applied in relation to the topic and research question.</li><li>• There is evidence of effective and informed selection of sources and/or methods.</li></ul>

### Criterion B: Knowledge and understanding

This criterion assesses the extent to which the research relates to the subject area/discipline used to explore the research question, or in the case of the world studies extended essay, the issue addressed and the two disciplinary perspectives applied, and additionally the way in which this knowledge and understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate terminology and concepts.

Level	Descriptor of strands and indicators
0	<b>The work does not reach a standard outlined by the descriptors below.</b>
1–2	<b>Knowledge and understanding is limited.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The selection of source material has limited relevance and is only partially appropriate to the research question.</li><li>Knowledge of the topic/discipline(s)/issue is anecdotal, unstructured and mostly descriptive with sources not effectively being used.</li></ul> <b>Use of terminology and concepts is unclear and limited.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Subject-specific terminology and/or concepts are either missing or inaccurate, demonstrating limited knowledge and understanding.</li></ul>
3–4	<b>Knowledge and understanding is good.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The selection of source material is mostly relevant and appropriate to the research question.</li><li>Knowledge of the topic/discipline(s)/issue is clear; there is an understanding of the sources used but their application is only partially effective.</li></ul> <b>Use of terminology and concepts is adequate.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The use of subject-specific terminology and concepts is mostly accurate, demonstrating an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding.</li></ul> <b>If the topic or research question is deemed inappropriate for the subject in which the essay is registered no more than four marks can be awarded for this criterion.</b>
5–6	<b>Knowledge and understanding is excellent.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The selection of source materials is clearly relevant and appropriate to the research question.</li><li>Knowledge of the topic/discipline(s)/issue is clear and coherent and sources are used effectively and with understanding.</li></ul> <b>Use of terminology and concepts is good.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The use of subject-specific terminology and concepts is accurate and consistent, demonstrating effective knowledge and understanding.</li></ul>

### Criterion C: Critical thinking

This criterion assesses the extent to which critical-thinking skills have been used to analyze and evaluate the research undertaken.

Level	Descriptor of strands and indicators
0	<b>The work does not reach a standard outlined by the descriptors below.</b>

<p>1–3</p>	<p><b>The research is limited.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The research presented is limited and its application is not clearly relevant to the RQ.</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis is limited.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is limited analysis.</li> <li>• Where there are conclusions to individual points of analysis these are limited and not consistent with the evidence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion/evaluation is limited.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An argument is outlined <b>but</b> this is limited, incomplete, descriptive or narrative in nature.</li> <li>• The construction of an argument is unclear and/or incoherent in structure hindering understanding.</li> <li>• Where there is a final conclusion, it is limited and not consistent with the arguments/evidence presented.</li> <li>• There is an attempt to evaluate the research, but this is superficial.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the topic or research question is deemed inappropriate for the subject in which the essay is registered no more than three marks can be awarded for this criterion.</b></p>
<p>4–6</p>	<p><b>The research is adequate.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some research presented is appropriate and its application is partially relevant to the Research question.</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis is adequate.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is analysis <b>but</b> this is only partially relevant to the research question; the inclusion of irrelevant research detracts from the quality of the argument.</li> <li>• Any conclusions to individual points of analysis are only partially supported by the evidence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion/evaluation is adequate.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An argument explains the research <b>but</b> the reasoning contains inconsistencies.</li> <li>• The argument may lack clarity and coherence but this does not significantly hinder understanding.</li> <li>• Where there is a final or summative conclusion, this is only partially consistent with the arguments/evidence presented.</li> <li>• The research has been evaluated but not critically.</li> </ul>
<p>7–9</p>	<p><b>The research is good.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of the research is appropriate and its application is clearly relevant to the research question.</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis is good.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The research is analysed in a way that is clearly relevant to the research question; the inclusion of less relevant research rarely detracts from the quality of the overall analysis.</li> <li>• Conclusions to individual points of analysis are supported by the evidence but there are some minor inconsistencies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion/evaluation is good.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An effective reasoned argument is developed from the research, with a conclusion supported by the evidence presented.</li> <li>• This reasoned argument is clearly structured and coherent and supported by a final or summative conclusion; minor inconsistencies may hinder the strength of the overall argument.</li> <li>• The research has been evaluated, and this is partially critical.</li> </ul>
<p>10–12</p>	<p><b>The research is excellent.</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The research is appropriate to the research question and its application is consistently relevant.</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis is excellent.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The research is analysed effectively and clearly focused on the research question; the inclusion of less relevant research does not significantly detract from the quality of the overall analysis.</li> <li>Conclusions to individual points of analysis are effectively supported by the evidence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion/evaluation is excellent.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An effective and focused reasoned argument is developed from the research with a conclusion reflective of the evidence presented.</li> <li>This reasoned argument is well structured and coherent; any minor inconsistencies do not hinder the strength of the overall argument or the final or summative conclusion.</li> <li>The research has been critically evaluated.</li> </ul>
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### Criterion D: Presentation

This criterion assesses the extent to which the presentation follows the standard format expected for academic writing and the extent to which this aids effective communication.

Level	Descriptor of strands and indicators
0	<b>The work does not reach a standard outlined by the descriptors below.</b>
1–2	<p><b>Presentation is acceptable.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The structure of the essay is generally appropriate in terms of the expected conventions for the topic, argument and subject in which the essay is registered.</li> <li>Some layout considerations may be missing or applied incorrectly.</li> <li>Weaknesses in the structure and/or layout do not significantly impact the reading, understanding or evaluation of the extended essay.</li> </ul>
3–4	<p><b>Presentation is good.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The structure of the essay clearly is appropriate in terms of the expected conventions for the topic, the argument and subject in which the essay is registered.</li> <li>Layout considerations are present and applied correctly.</li> <li>The structure and layout support the reading, understanding and evaluation of the extended essay.</li> </ul>

### Criterion E: Engagement

This criterion assesses the student's engagement with their research focus and the research process. It will be applied by the examiner at the end of the assessment of the essay, and is based solely on the candidate's reflections as detailed on the [RPPF](#), with the supervisory comments and extended essay itself as context.

Level	Descriptor of strands and indicators
0	<b>The work does not reach a standard outlined by the descriptors or a RPPF has not been submitted.</b>

1–2	<p><b>Engagement is limited.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflections on decision-making and planning are mostly descriptive.</li> <li>• These reflections communicate a limited degree of personal engagement with the research focus and/or research process.</li> </ul>
3–4	<p><b>Engagement is good.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflections on decision-making and planning are analytical and include reference to conceptual understanding and skill development.</li> <li>• These reflections communicate a moderate degree of personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating some intellectual initiative.</li> </ul>
5–6	<p><b>Engagement is excellent.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflections on decision-making and planning are evaluative and include reference to the student's capacity to consider actions and ideas in response to challenges experienced in the research process.</li> <li>• These reflections communicate a high degree of intellectual and personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating authenticity, intellectual initiative and/or creative approach in the student voice.</li> </ul>

## General Timeline

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Students will receive specific deadlines in class. The deadlines below provide a general outline of dates. Specific due dates can be found on the IB Assessment Calendar.

### October - January

- Select a subject and category of personal interest.
- Students should be emailing the supervisor their research proposals outlines

### March - April

- The first reflection meeting should be held sometime during these months.
- To be discussed and noted on the EE/RPPF:
  - a review of the requirements and assessment criteria for the subject
  - a review of ethical and legal implications, if applicable
  - a dialogue about possible approaches and any potential problems that might arise
  - a discussion of strategies for developing the student's ideas for the essay and expanding the research so that the essay starts to take form
  - probing and challenging questions that will help the student focus their thinking; this should lead to the refinement of the student's working research question, they will be bringing a 1st draft working question
  - an outline of the next steps that the student should undertake in order to refine their question; this should take the form of a research and writing timeline.

### May - August

- The student may contact supervisors by email for short questions.
- The student should be finishing research and beginning writing their essay.

### September - October

- The interim reflection session should take place during this time.

- Make sure this is documented on the EE/RPPF
- During this session, the supervisor might discuss:
  - a completed piece of sustained writing from the student in order to ensure that they understand the academic writing requirements, including referencing formats
  - whether an appropriate range of sources has been accessed and how the student is critically evaluating the origin of those sources
  - what the student now has to do in order to produce the full draft of their essay, and ways and means of breaking down the task into manageable steps.

#### **Mid / Late January**

- Students will submit the final draft of the EE for reading to their supervisor prior to the final meeting.

#### **Early / mid February**

- Supervisors **must have already read the final version** of the essay, sent to them by the candidate **before** this session takes place.
- **At this point in the process, no further changes can be made to the essay.**
- The viva voce is:
  - an opportunity to ask the student a variety of open-ended questions to elicit holistic evidence of the student's learning experience.
  - an opportunity for the supervisor to confirm the authenticity of the student's ideas and sources
  - an opportunity to reflect on successes and difficulties encountered in the research process
  - an aid to the supervisor's comments on the Reflections on planning and progress form.
  - The viva voce should last 20–30 minutes. This is included in the recommended amount of time a supervisor should spend with the student.

#### **Mid / Late February**

The completed EE/RPPF form should be completed with signatures on all three meetings and your supervisor comments.

**FORMS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor name \_\_\_\_\_

### Working EE/PPF Form

**Directions:** *The Final EE/RPPF form is hard to save and type into so we will put the information from your three reflective sessions on this form and transfer it to the final form we submit it to IB. **Make sure you keep track of your word count. All three reflections cannot be MORE THAN 500 words in TOTAL!***

First reflection session: Date of Session \_\_\_\_\_

Interim reflection: Date of Session \_\_\_\_\_

Final reflection - Viva voce: Date of Session \_\_\_\_\_

EE rubric section to guide supervisor comments

This is how the EE assesses Criteria E for the student's EE it comes directly from your comment on the final form known as the EE/RPPF. Please use this as a guide for writing your comments.

1–2

**Engagement is limited.**

- Reflections on decision-making and planning are mostly descriptive.
- These reflections communicate a limited degree of personal engagement with the research focus and/or research process.

3–4

**Engagement is good.**

- Reflections on decision-making and planning are analytical and include reference to conceptual understanding and skill development.
- These reflections communicate a moderate degree of personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating some intellectual initiative.

5–6

**Engagement is excellent.**

- Reflections on decision-making and planning are evaluative and include reference to the student's capacity to consider actions and ideas in response to challenges experienced in the research process.
- These reflections communicate a high degree of intellectual and personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating authenticity, intellectual initiative and/or creative approach in the student voice.

What do I write on supervisor's comments

**What to write about:**

- Comment on the process of creating and writing the extended essay and/or the selection of the topic (especially when a student has a real person connection to the subject chosen). Examiners don't know the students and this will give them insight into how much work went into the extended essay.
- Comment how you experienced working with the student, such as was the student easy to work with? Or, was the student open to feedback?
- **Don't explain what grade you think the work should be awarded**, this is the examiner's job.
- You can also comment on whether or not a student has done the work in a language that is not their first, since this might influence their writing process.
- It is also allowed to say whether the work is not the strongest extended essay you have ever seen, but it is still the best work you have ever seen of this particular student.

**Example supervisor reports:**

**Example 1:**

The candidate, X, is a student of English A2 Higher Level. In his extended essay, he combined two areas in which he is particularly interested: literature & politics, specifically Shakespeare and political power.

From his extended essay and the viva voce, it becomes clear that X enjoys looking at links not only within works literature by the same author, but also from different writers and thinkers and this is what he liked best in doing his research, this and the opportunity to go more in depth and "not just scratch the surface," he said.

While writing his extended essay, what gave X most trouble was staying within the scope of the 4000 words word limit and narrowing down his topic to do so. From his outline to his final version, X worked hard though on expressing his ideas and analysis within these boundaries, editing and reshaping his work.

Furthermore, X, at first, was somewhat wary of other people's research because he was afraid they would influence him too much or rob him of original thoughts/ideas. During his extended essay, however, X learned the value of other people's work and how to incorporate this in his essay more and more.

**Example 2:**

While studying motion in IBH physics, Y was quite motivated by our discussion of applications for projectile motion. As a key member of the varsity soccer team, he had pragmatically learned about projectiles, but had not fully appreciated the physics underlying their flight. It seemed natural for him to pursue this topic for his extended essay.

Using himself and volunteers from the team as subjects, Y investigated the "free kick" on our soccer pitch at school. His main difficulty was in obtaining repeatable results to analyze and thus find solid support for his conclusions. By analyzing his procedure and taking into account

previously unconsidered variables, Y was able to understand the physics behind one aspect of his favorite team sport.