

IB Extended Essay

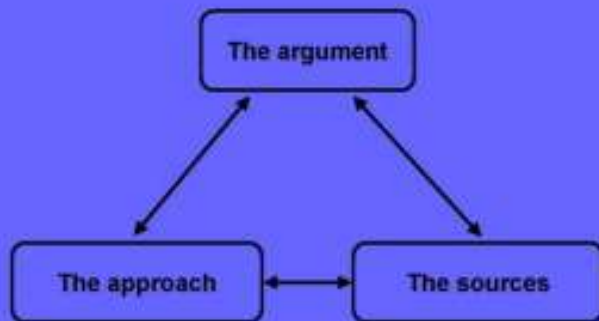


What is the Extended Essay?

- A requirement for all IBDP candidates
- A piece of independent research on a limited topic within an IB subject
- Represent 40 hours of research
- Maximum of 4000 words
- Marked out of 36



The balancing act



Assessment Criteria

- research question (2 marks)
- introduction (2 marks)
- investigation (4 marks)
- knowledge and understanding of the topic studied (4 marks)
- reasoned argument (4 marks)
- application of analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to the subject (4 marks)
- use of language appropriate to the subject (4 marks)
- conclusion (2 marks)
- formal presentation (4 marks)
- abstract (2 marks)
- holistic judgment (4 marks)



Identifying the easy marks

Criteria	Problem	Marks lost
A	no research question or research question does not lend itself to systematic investigation in the subject in which the essay is registered	A: 2 C: 2 D: 2 E: 2 H: 2
H	no conclusion	2
I	essay exceeds 4,000 words	4
I	no contents page, page numbers	up to 3
J	no abstract or abstract exceeds 300 words or research question, how the investigation was undertaken or conclusion is missing (Note: if just ONE of these three components is missing a mark of 0 must be awarded)	2

Advice from current DP12 students

- Choose a subject that you enjoy, because you will be spending a long time with it!
- Start early and stick to any school deadlines
- Record your sources as you go along
- Use the appropriate language for your subject and proofread
- Keep checking that what you write is relevant to your research question
- Read the criteria very, very carefully and make sure your essay fits them
- If you finish early, see the previous tip!



How do I choose a subject?

- What subjects am I studying at HL?
- What subjects do I most enjoy studying?
- What subjects do I want to study at College/University?
- What subjects do I want to talk about in my College/University interview?



How do I choose a topic?

- What topics have I enjoyed learning about?
- What topics do I find interesting / prompt my enthusiasm?
- What interests do I have?



What if I don't know which subject or topic I want to do?

- Talk to Mr El Metaal
- Ask your teachers if you could have 5 minutes to discuss possible research questions.
 - They may not end up being your supervisor, but may be able to help you at this point.
- If you have lots of ideas, choose a topic which is 'good' rather than spending ages trying to work out what would be the absolute best topic.



The role of the supervisor

- To advise the student on choice of subject, topic and research question
- Encourage and support the student throughout the process
- Read and comment on the 1st Draft only
- Ensure deadlines are met
- Ensure the essay is the student's own work and complete the supervisor's report
- Advise student on the formal aspects of essay presentation, paging, referencing, bibliography and the writing of the abstract
- To supervise no more than three extended essays



Not the role of the supervisor!

- To teach the topic to the student
- To research on behalf of the student
- To edit or re-write sections of the essay
- To spend hours and hours with the student (recommended maximum time: 4 hours)



Frequent comments from examiners


- A well chosen research question is absolutely crucial
- The abstract is a relatively simple exercise and should include all the three required elements, but should only be written **at the end**
- The conclusion needs to be drawn on the basis of the discussion and should often consider unsolved questions/issues
- An essay should not be simply a collection and description of facts, but make use of them in support an argument and/or personal opinion
- Students should be extremely careful about attribution (referencing)
- Ensure that any internet research is carried out in a critical way



Research and referencing

- A reference is a way of indicating to the reader where information has been obtained
- A reference provides all the information needed to find or verify the source material
- References must be given whenever someone else's work is quoted or summarized
- Be careful using information from web sites that do not give references or that cannot be cross-checked against other sources
 - You **need** to check that what it says is confirmed by other sources

Research and referencing

 Research record form		
Author(s)	Name of Book / Magazine / Newspaper / Journal	
Name of Article (if applicable)	Editors (if applicable)	
Place of publication	Name of publisher	Date of publication
Page Number	Direct quote ("..."), paraphrasing or idea	