GRADING THE EXTENDED ESSAY
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- A – research question (graded 0-2)
- B – introduction (graded 0-2)
- C – investigation (graded 0-4)
- D – knowledge and understanding of the topic stated (graded 0-4)
- E – reasoned argument (graded 0-4)
- F – application of analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to the subject (graded 0-4)
- G – use of language appropriate to the subject (graded 0-4)
- H – conclusion (graded 0-2)
- I – formal presentation (graded 0-4)
- J – abstract (graded 0-2)
- K – holistic judgment (graded 0-4)
This criterion assesses the extent to which the purpose of the essay is specified.

In most subjects the aim of the essay will normally be expressed as a question. Certain disciplines permit different ways of formulating the research task.

Graded 0 – 1 – 2

In order to get a 2, your research question must be clearly stated in the introduction and sharply focused.
This criterion assesses the extent to which the introduction makes clear how the research question relates to existing knowledge on the topic. It explains how the topic chosen is significant and worthy of investigation. Graded 0 – 1 – 2. In order to get a 2 the context of the research question needs to be clearly demonstrated. The introduction clearly explains the significance of the topic and why it is worthy of investigation.
INVESTIGATION

• This criterion assesses the extent to which the investigation is planned
• An appropriate range of sources has been consulted or date gathered relevant to the research question
• Where the research question does not lend itself to the systematic investigation in the subject in which the essay is registered, the maximum level awarded is 2.
• Graded 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
• In order to get a 4 an imaginative range of appropriate sources has been consulted, or data has been gathered, and relevant material has been carefully selected.
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE TOPIC

• This criterion assesses how well the candidate has related the investigation to the principles of inquiry.

• Where the research questions does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject in which the essay is registered, the maximum level awarded is 2.

• Graded 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 -- 4

• In order to get a 4 the essay must demonstrate very good knowledge and understanding of the topic. It clearly and precisely locates the investigation in an academic context.
This criterion assesses the extent to which the essay uses the material collected to present ideas in a logical and coherent manner.

Is a reasoned argument developed in relation to the research question?

Where the research question does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject the maximum level awarded is 2.

Graded 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

In order to get a 4 ideas must be presented clearly and in a logical manner. Successful development of a reasoned and convincing argument in relation to the research question is apparent.
APPLICATION OF ANALYTICAL AND EVALUATIVE SKILLS APPROPRIATE TO THE SUBJECT

- Graded 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- In order to get a 4 the essay must show effective and sophisticated application of appropriate analytical and evaluative skills
USE OF LANGUAGE APPROPRIATE TO THE SUBJECT

• Graded 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

• In order to get a 4 the language used must clearly and precisely communicate ideas. It must use terminology appropriate to the subject with skill and understanding.
CONCLUSION

- This criterion assesses the extent to which the essay incorporates a conclusion that is relevant to the research question.
- It must be consistent with the evidence presented.
- Graded 0 – 1 – 2
- In order to get a 2 an effective conclusion must be clearly stated; is relevant to the research question and consistent with the evidence presented in the essay.
- It should include unresolved questions where appropriate.
This criterion assesses the extent to which layout, organization, appearance and formal elements of the essay consistently follow a standard format.

Formal elements include: title page, table of contents, page numbers, illustrative material, quotations, documentation (references, citations, and bibliography) and appendices.

Graded 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

In order to get a 4 the formal presentation must be excellent.
The requirements for the abstract are for it to clearly state the research question that was investigated, how the investigation was undertaken and the conclusion(s) of the essay.

- Grade 0 – the abstract exceeds 300 words, is extremely short or one or more of the above elements is missing.
- Grade 1 – the abstract contains the elements listed above but they are not clearly stated.
- Grade 2 – the abstract clearly states all the elements listed above.
HOLISTIC JUDGMENT

• The purpose of this criterion is to assess the qualities that distinguish an essay from the average such as intellectual initiative, depth of understanding and insight.
• Graded 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
• In order to get a 4 the essay must show considerable evidence of such qualities.
SCORING

- A: 30-36
- B: 25-29
- C: 17-24
- D: 9-16
- E: 0-8

In order for an IB candidate to be awarded his/her diploma he/she must have a C or better on the extended essay or 28 points.
BIBLIOGRAPHY