

Extended Essay Scoring Rubric

Candidate: _____

IB Number: _____

A: Research Question (Objectives 1 and 2)

This criterion assesses the extent to which the purpose of the essay is specified. In many subjects, the aim of the essay will normally be expressed as a question and, therefore, this criterion is called the “research question.” However, certain disciplines may permit or encourage different ways of formulating the research task.

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	The research question is not stated in the introduction or does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in an extended essay in the subject in which it is registered.			
1	The research question is stated in the introduction but is not clearly expressed or is too broad in scope to be treated effectively within the word limit.			
2	The research question is clearly stated in the introduction and sharply focused, making effective treatment possible within the word limit.			

Draft Comments:

You should study the information on writing a thesis/research question on the Dartmouth College Writing Program website at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/develop.shtml

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B: Introduction (Objectives 1 and 5)

This criterion assesses the extent to which the introduction makes clear how the research question relates to existing knowledge on the topic and explains how the topic chosen is significant and worthy of investigation.

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	Little or no attempt is made to set the research question into context. There is little or no attempt to explain the significance of the topic.			
1	Some attempt is made to set the research question into context. There is some attempt to explain the significance of the topic and why it is worthy of investigation.			
2	The context of the research question is clearly demonstrated. The introduction clearly explains the significance of the topic and why it is worthy of investigation.			

Draft Comments:

You should study the information on developing an introduction on the Dartmouth College Writing Program website at:
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/write.shtml#intros

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C: Investigation (Objectives 1 and 3)

This criterion assesses the extent to which the investigation is planned and an appropriate range of sources has been consulted, or data has been gathered, that is relevant to the research question. Where the research question does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject in which the essay is registered, the maximum level that can be awarded for this criterion is 2.

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	There is little or no evidence that sources have been consulted or data gathered, and little or no evidence of planning in the investigation.			
1	A range of inappropriate sources has been consulted, or inappropriate data has been gathered, and there is little evidence that the investigation has been planned.			
2	A limited range of appropriate sources has been consulted, or data has been gathered, and some relevant material has been selected. There is evidence of some planning in the investigation.			
3	A sufficient range of appropriate sources has been consulted, or data has been gathered, and relevant material has been selected. The investigation has been satisfactorily planned.			
4	An imaginative range of appropriate sources has been consulted, or data has been gathered, and relevant material has been carefully selected. The investigation has been well planned.			

Draft Comments:

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D: Knowledge and Understanding of Topic (Objectives 3 and 7)

Where the research question does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject in which the essay is registered, the maximum level that can be awarded for this criterion is 2. “Academic context”, as used in this guide, can be defined as the current state of the field of study under investigation. However, this is to be understood in relation to what can reasonably be expected of a pre-university student. For example, to obtain a level 4, it would be sufficient to relate the investigation to the principal lines of inquiry in the relevant field; detailed, comprehensive knowledge is not required.

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	The essay demonstrates no real knowledge or understanding of the topic studied.			
1	The essay demonstrates some knowledge but little understanding of the topic studied. The essay shows little awareness of an academic context for the investigation.			
2	The essay demonstrates an adequate knowledge and some understanding of the topic studied. The essay shows some awareness of an academic context for the investigation.			
3	The essay demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of the topic studied. Where appropriate, the essay successfully outlines an academic context for the investigation.			
4	The essay demonstrates a very good knowledge and understanding of the topic studied. Where appropriate, the essay clearly and precisely locates the investigation in an academic context.			

Draft Comments:

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E. Reasoned Argument: (Objectives 1 and 4)

This criterion assesses the extent to which the essay uses the material collected to present ideas in a logical and coherent manner, and develops a reasoned argument in relation to the research question. Where the research question does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject in which the essay is registered, the maximum level that can be awarded for this criterion is 2.

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	There is no attempt to develop a reasoned argument in relation to the research question.			
1	There is a limited or superficial attempt to present ideas in a logical and coherent manner, and to develop a reasoned argument in relation to the research question.			
2	There is some attempt to present ideas in a logical and coherent manner, and to develop a reasoned argument in relation to the research question, but this is only partially successful.			
3	Ideas are presented in a logical and coherent manner, and a reasoned argument is developed in relation to the research question, but with some weaknesses.			
4	Ideas are presented clearly and in a logical and coherent manner. The essay succeeds in developing a reasoned and convincing argument in relation to the research question.			

Draft Comments:

Information about logic and argument is located on the Dartmouth College Writing Program website at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/logic.shtml. Additional information on how to develop an informed argument can be found on the same website at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/what.shtml.

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F. Application of Analytical and Evaluative Skills Appropriate to the Subject (Objective 7)

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	The essay shows no application of appropriate analytical and evaluative skills.			
1	The essay shows little application of appropriate analytical and evaluative skills.			
2	The essay shows some application of appropriate analytical and evaluative skills, which may be only partially effective.			
3	The essay shows sound application of appropriate analytical and evaluative skills.			
4	The essay shows effective and sophisticated application of appropriate analytical and evaluative skills.			

Draft Comments:

You may benefit from reading the information on constructing an informed argument (and developing evaluative and analytical skills) on the Dartmouth College Writing website at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/what.shtml#argument .

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G: Use of Language Appropriate to the Subject (Objective 6)

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	The language used is inaccurate and unclear. There is no effective use of terminology appropriate to the subject.			
1	The language used sometimes communicates clearly but does not do so consistently. The use of terminology appropriate to the subject is only partly accurate.			
2	The language used for the most part communicates clearly. The use of terminology appropriate to the subject is usually accurate.			
3	The language used communicates clearly. The use of terminology appropriate to the subject is accurate, although there may be occasional lapses.			
4	The language used communicates clearly and precisely. Terminology appropriate to the subject is used accurately, with skill and understanding.			

Draft Comments:

You can make your essay (and your argument) easier to understand by attending to style and usage. Information on these topics can be found on the Dartmouth College Writing Program's website at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/style.shtml.

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H: Conclusion (Objectives 1, 4, and 5)

This criterion assesses the extent to which the essay incorporates a conclusion that is relevant to the research question and is consistent with the evidence presented in the essay.

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	Little or no attempt is made to provide a conclusion that is relevant to the research question.			
1	A conclusion is attempted that is relevant to the research question but may not be entirely consistent with the evidence presented in the essay.			
2	An effective conclusion is clearly stated; it is relevant to the research question and consistent with the evidence presented in the essay. It should include unresolved questions where appropriate to the subject concerned.			

Draft Comments:

You should study the information on developing an introduction on the Dartmouth College Writing Program website at:
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/write.shtml#intros

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I: Formal Presentation (Objective 5)

This criterion assesses the extent to which the layout, organization, appearance and formal elements of the essay consistently follow a standard format. The formal elements are: title page, table of contents, page numbers, illustrative material, quotations, documentation (including references, citations and bibliography) and appendices (if used).

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	The formal presentation is unacceptable, or the essay exceeds 4,000 words.			
1	The formal presentation is poor.			
2	The formal presentation is satisfactory.			
3	The formal presentation is good.			
4	The formal presentation is excellent.			

Draft Comments:

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J: Abstract (Objective 5)

The requirements for the abstract are for it to state clearly the research question that was investigated, how the investigation was undertaken and the conclusion(s) of the essay.

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	The abstract exceeds 300 words or one or more of the required elements of an abstract (listed above) is missing.			
1	The abstract contains the elements listed above but they are not all clearly stated.			
2	The abstract clearly states all the elements listed above.			

Draft Comments:

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K: Holistic Judgment (Objective 1)

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. While these qualities will be clearly present in the best work, less successful essays may also show some evidence of them and should be rewarded under this criterion.

Achievement Level	Descriptor	Essay 1	Essay 2	Essay 3
0	The essay shows no evidence of such qualities.			
1	The essay shows little evidence of such qualities.			
2	The essay shows some evidence of such qualities.			
3	The essay shows clear evidence of such qualities.			
4	The essay shows considerable evidence of such qualities.			

Draft Comments:

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	Draft	Final
A. Research Question	_____	_____
B. Introduction	_____	_____
C. Investigation	_____	_____
D. Knowledge/Understanding of Subject	_____	_____
E. Reasoned Argument	_____	_____
F. Application of Analytical and Evaluative Skills	_____	_____
G. Use of Language	_____	_____
H. Conclusion	_____	_____
I. Formal Presentation	_____	_____
J. Abstract	_____	_____
K. Holistic Judgment	_____	_____
TOTALS	_____	_____



Assessment Objectives

In working on the extended essay, students are expected to:

- 1. plan and pursue a research project with intellectual initiative and insight.**
- 2. formulate a precise research question.**
- 3. gather and interpret material from sources appropriate to the research question.**
- 4. structure a reasoned argument in response to the research question on the basis of the material gathered.**
- 5. present their extended essay in a format appropriate to the subject, acknowledging sources in one of the established academic ways.**
- 6. use the terminology and language appropriate to the subject with skill and understanding.**
- 7. apply analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to the subject, with an understanding of the implications and the context of their research.**

Grammar and Usage Checklist

The essay contains the following grammatical errors:

- _____ sentence fragments
- _____ run-on sentences
- _____ comma splice
- _____ comma errors
- _____ improper use of quotation marks
- _____ misuse of plurals and possessives
- _____ pronoun / antecedent problems
- _____ subject-verb agreement
- _____ capitalization
- _____ using numbers (refer to MLA Manual)
- _____ spelling
- _____ other punctuation marks
 - _____ colon
 - _____ ellipses
 - _____ dash
 - _____ semi-colon

This essay contains the following writer's errors:

- _____ voice problems (active voice is preferred)
- _____ paragraph transitions
- _____ use of contractions (eliminate)
- _____ commonly misused words and expressions
<http://www.bartleby.com/141/strunk3.html>
- _____ objectivity (writing in the first person)
- _____ sentence variety
- _____ parallel structure
<http://sut1.sut.ac.th/strunk/strunk.html#15>

To correct grammatical errors, consult **The Guide to Grammar and Writing** at: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm>
To correct style and usage errors, consult **The Elements of Style** at: <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>
To correct errors of grammar, style and usage consult the Dartmouth Writing Project at:
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/toc.shtml>