

Extended Essay Checklist

Do you want to get many points on the Extended Essay? Then make sure that you stick to the Extended Essay criteria. You can find them on ib.okim.info. The following is a summary of the maximum points. The common problems were added by Mr. Kim and are not from the IB.

Criterion A: Focus and method [max. 6 pts]

The topic is communicated accurately and effectively. Identification and explanation of the research topic is effectively communicated; the purpose and focus of the research is clear and appropriate.

The research question is clearly stated and focused. The research question is clear and addresses an issue of research that is appropriately connected to the discussion in the essay.

Methodology of the research is complete. An appropriate range of relevant source(s) and/or method(s) have been applied in relation to the topic and research question. There is evidence of effective and informed selection of sources and/or methods.

Common problems:

- Method not properly explained and justified (!) at all. “I will do internet research” or “I will compare the books” or “I will search for quotes” are not enough.
- Too much method, without justification: A problem in science EE. Move details to appendix and include a justified overview of the method at the beginning.
- Research Question not communicated/explained properly. There is some theoretical explanation, and then all of a sudden a RQ, and the reader wonders how the theory is connected to the RQ.

Criterion B: Knowledge and understanding [max. 6 pts]

Knowledge and understanding is excellent. The selection of source materials is clearly relevant and appropriate to the research question. Knowledge of the topic/discipline(s)/issue is clear and coherent and sources are used effectively and with understanding.

Use of terminology and concepts is good. The use of subject-specific terminology and concepts is accurate and consistent, demonstrating effective knowledge and understanding.

Common Problems:

- Students do not explain how sources were selected (part of method)
- Students use irrelevant sources (non-citable sources) that they find. Extreme example: a personal blog of someone. Unless there is a good reason for this, it is not of academic relevancy.

Criterion C: Critical thinking [max. 12 pts]

The research is excellent. The research is appropriate to the research question and its application is consistently relevant.

Analysis is excellent. The research is analyzed 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. Conclusions to individual points of analysis are effectively supported by the evidence.

Discussion/evaluation is excellent. An effective and focused reasoned argument is developed from the research with a conclusion reflective of the evidence presented. 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. The research has been critically evaluated.

Common problem:

- Many students overlook that this is the main part. They spend much time researching data, they present the data (statistics, quotes, etc.) and they think that this is enough. You have to talk about them. Analyze their quality etc.
- Sometimes EE contain large sections of summaries, which are not relevant for answering the RQ, or maybe it might be even relevant, but sentences are missing that link these summaries to the RQ.

Criterion D: Presentation [max. 4 pts]

Presentation is good. 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. Layout considerations are present and applied correctly. The structure and layout support the reading, understanding and evaluation of the extended essay.

Common problem:

- Inconsistent formatting, missing page numbers, tables and diagrams not properly labeled, etc.
- Reference section only contains link to the website but not the full details.

Criterion E: Engagement [max. 6 pts]

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.

Common problem:

- Students do not realize that they will get points on the form. They are motivated, show up on the meetings, do all of the research well, but they write a bad form. Points lost.
- The form is not sufficiently reflective and evaluative (read section in the guide!!).

Students must do the following:

- Fill out the RPPF form. [Link to the Extended Essay Form](#) (very important, you get points for Criterion E).
- Have 3 meetings with your Supervisor. The last meeting (Viva Voce is after you handed in the EE)
- Stick to the Extended Essay Criteria (unless you want to get few points and waste time)
- Submit the EE in the form of a print out and on a labelled USB Stick to the secretary on November 30.
- Do not include a name in the EE (!). It is anonymous.
- Title page of EE: Title, Research question, Word Count. Not your name.
- Send the RPPF form to the supervisor to complete the comments.
- The essays and the form will be uploaded by Mr. Kim.