

The Extended Essay of 4,000 words offers the opportunity for IB students to investigate a topic of special interest to them and is also related to one of the student's six Diploma Programme (DP) subjects/disciplines. An extended essay can also be undertaken in world studies. The world studies extended essay provides students with the opportunity to carry out an in-depth interdisciplinary study of an issue of contemporary global significance, utilizing two IB diploma disciplines. Both types of extended essay (single-disciplinary and interdisciplinary essays) are intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity expected at university. They provide students with an opportunity to engage in personal research in a topic of their own choice, under the guidance of a supervisor (a teacher in 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 or issue chosen. It is recommended that students follow the completion of the written essay with a short, concluding interview – viva voce – with the supervisor. In countries where interviews are required prior to acceptance for employment or for a place at university, the extended essay has proved to be a valuable stimulus for discussion.

### **The Research Process**

Owing to the diversity of subjects and the different approaches to research, a systematic process, shaped by the nature of the subject, is essential to generate and gather information and ideas that can be used to develop a convincing answer to the specified research question.

### **The Choice of Subject**

The subject in which the Extended Essay is registered must be chosen from the list of available subjects given in the handbook for procedures of the Diploma programme. It is advisable to choose the subject for the Extended Essay before deciding what the topic or research question of the Extended Essay will be. Since the IB specifies the range of permitted subjects, certain topics may not be appropriate as an Extended Essay. The subject chosen for the Extended Essay does not have to be one of the subjects being studied by the candidate for the Diploma, but care should be taken to choose a subject in which the candidate has sufficient knowledge and skills.

The topic for the Extended Essay must be one in which the student has sufficient knowledge and interest to complete the task effectively.

### **The Choice of Topic**

The topic of the Extended Essay is the particular area of study within the chosen subject. Before a final decision is made about the choice of topic the relevant subject guidelines should be carefully considered.

Candidates should aim to choose a topic that is both interesting and challenging to them. The topic chosen should be limited in scope and sufficiently narrow to allow candidates to examine an issue or problem in depth. It should present the candidate with the opportunity to collect or generate information and/or data for analysis and evaluation. Candidates are not expected to make a contribution to knowledge within a subject.

A broad topic is unlikely to result in a successful Extended Essay, a topic that requires no personal research and/or requires an essentially narrative or descriptive approach is not suitable for an Extended Essay. Similarly, although a reliance on secondary sources is sometimes necessary, an Extended Essay, which only provides a summary of such sources, will not be successful. Writing a précis of a well- documented topic is unlikely to result in a successful Extended Essay.

### **The Research Question**

When an appropriate topic has been chosen, candidates should narrow the focus of the investigation and formulate a specific research question. For many Extended Essays this will be phrased in the form of a question but alternatives such as launching the investigation with a hypothesis are acceptable. Indeed, some may argue that stating a premise and mounting an argument in its defence may provide more purpose and focus. By frequently referring to this research question, candidates should be able to maintain the purpose and orientation of the investigation. Candidates are encouraged to formulate a challenging research question but to ensure that it can be explored within the constraints of essay length, time and resources available to them.

It is also important to ensure that sufficient information is available on the topic to conduct research effectively. Students are advised to consult the Librarian for any clarification. The Research Question may be stated in the title, title page, or defined in the introduction; if only stated in the title or title page, it should be restated in the introduction. It is not sufficient to state it only on the cover sheet. The Research Question maybe stated as a hypothesis rather than a question.

### **The Length of the Extended Essay**

The EE is presented as a formal piece of scholarship containing no more than 4,000 words. The upper limit of 4,000 words for all extended essays is rigid. However, this upper limit includes the introduction, the body, the conclusion and any quotations, but does NOT include:

- acknowledgements
- the contents page
- maps, charts, diagrams, annotated illustrations and tables equations, formulas and calculations
- citations/references (whether parenthetical or numbered)
- footnotes or endnotes the bibliography appendices.

Extended Essays containing more than 4,000 words are subject to penalties and examiners are not required to read material in excess of the word limit.

Intrinsic information or summative information in tables and diagrams is not included in the word count. However, if the text included in the table or diagram is additional information that is an integral part of the essay, then the words are counted.

Aditya Birla World Academy uses the MLA system of citation and referencing.

### **How the extended essay is assessed?**

As has been already suggested, the Extended Essay is awarded marks according to general and subject-specific assessment criteria. These are to be read together because the general criteria are often modified by the subject-specific criteria. So even though there may slight differences every essay is awarded a mark out of 34.

There are five criteria in total and the school is required to indicate the Supervisor's assessment of the essay.

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

Total marks available: 34

The assessment of Criterion E is through the RPPF which includes the 3 spaced out reflections of the students.