

IB Extended Essay

What is it?

- The IB Extended Essay (or EE) is a 4,000 word structured scientific research that you write under the supervision of an advisor (an IB teacher at your school), which counts towards your IB Diploma

How to get A grade?

- Write About Something You Enjoy Because You'll Be Spending a Lot of Time on It.
- Chose a Topic That Is Not Too Broad, But Not Too Narrow.
- Choose an Advisor Who Is Very Familiar With Your Topic and Who Seems Excited About It.
- Choose an Advisor Who Will Push You to Be Your Best.
- Make Sure Your Essay Has a Clear Structure and Flow.
- Start Writing Sooner Rather Than Later!

How your EE is graded

Total possible points: 36

Grade Distribution		
Grade	From	To
A	29	36
B	23	28
C	16	22
D	8	15
E	0	7

- **A) Research Question – 2 points**
- **B) Introduction – 2 points**
- **C) Investigation – 4 points**
- **D) Knowledge and Understanding of topic – 4 points**
- **E) Reasoned Argument – 4 points**
- **F) Application of Analytical and Evaluative Skills Appropriate to Topic – 4 points**
- **G) Use of Language Appropriate to the Subject – 4 points**
- **H) Conclusion – 2 points**
- **I) Formal Presentation – 4 points**
- **J) Abstract – 2 points**
- **K) Holistic Judgement – 4 points**

A) The Research Question

- It is clearly stated in the Introduction and be sharply focused. Your research question forms the basis of the essay title..
- It may also be a statement or proposition for discussion.
- Should not be too narrow or obvious, nor so broad that it cannot be covered in 4000 words.
- Bring several options to your mentor and discuss.

A: research question

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
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.

Do this correctly and you get two points.

Sample RQ

- How far does the use of rhetoric in Barack Obama's speech increase their effectiveness?
- To what extent were Hitler's educational aims fulfilled in the Uhland Gymnasium?
- Can a program of training in high altitude have an impact on the fitness of an athlete?
- What was the role of Mathematics in navigation when we relied on stars?

B) Introduction

Your introduction begins with your research question. Then you need two components:

- 1) **Context.** Include a summary of the current state of the field of study under investigation. In other words, briefly state what other people have said about this topic.
- 2) **Significance.** Explain the significance of your topic and why it is worthy of investigation.

B: introduction

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
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.

Do this correctly and you get two more points.

C) Investigation

- Find, read and use in your essay at least four academic sources.
- If you can't find at least four sources, don't do this topic
- Make sure your sources don't all say the same thing. Otherwise there is no need for your interpretation.
- Wikipedia, etc and popular publications do not gain you credit as sources, however Wikipedia can give you insight into sources. Go to the bottom of a Wikipedia page for the bibliography. Start there.

C: investigation

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
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.

Do appropriate research, reference sources in the EE and document sources in your annotated bibliography and you get 4 more points.

H: conclusion

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
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.

To get full credit your conclusion needs two things:

- 1) The second to last paragraph explicitly restates and answers the research question.
- 2) Your final paragraph should include unresolved questions when appropriate.

Do this correctly and you get 2 more points.

Criterion J – The Abstract

Signpost by writing:

Abstract

Then the abstract begins. Your abstract must contain:

- 1) the research question that was investigated, quoted verbatim
- 2) How the investigation was undertaken and the scope of the investigation.
- 3) The conclusions you reached.
- 4) Drop down a couple of spaces and add your word count (should be equal to or less than 300).

Criterion J

J: abstract

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
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.

Here is an example of an abstract formatted correctly. Note how it contains each of the four necessary components from the previous slide.

Abstract

The research question is how the Coen brothers portray the paradox of *the certainty of uncertainty* in the films, *A Serious Man* and *The Man Who Wasn't There*. The scope of the investigation is how film language is used to create this paradox. The essay follows the traditional three act structure (Setup, Confrontation and Resolution) on which movies are usually based on. The first thing that one discovers is that it is used to establish the examined paradox. The essay goes on exploring how this paradox appears in the three parts of the three act model. In the first part we look at the two opening scenes. In *A Serious Man* the brothers use different setting, characters and storyline in order to plant uncertainty in the audience. In opening scene of *The Man Who Wasn't There* the paradox is created by disconnecting the visual image from the narration. The second part of the essay discussed how the protagonists try to deal with uncertainty. It is seen in the symbolic scene of *A Serious Man* when the main character climbs up to the roof in order to fix the TV aerial. *The Man Who Wasn't There* uses the paradox to show the questionable personality of its protagonist. The UFO motif frequently appears in the movie implying uncertainty and doubt. In the last part our expectation towards the end cannot be fulfilled, because both of the movies end with the paradox without giving a certain resolution. The conclusion that we reach is that the only thing that one can be sure, by watching the two movies is uncertainty. Cinematography, editing and the use of sound create ambiguity in the audience. As a result of that, the audience is kept in constant uncertainty throughout the movies.

Word Count: 293

Now we come back to Criterion I

I: formal presentation

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
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.

Get this right and you get 4 more points. Following are tips to score these points.

To get full credit for I:

Formal Presentation

- You have included:
 - A title page that includes the essay title **and** the research question
 - The title page also contains your name, your session number and the essay word count. Only count words in the essay itself. The abstract, bibliography and so forth are not part of the word count. See next slide for an example

Akira Kurosawa influences

To what extent has Akira Kurosawa influenced Western films? ✓

By:

Candidate Number:

Word Count: 4000

**The next page has your
abstract.**

We'll use this slide again.

Abstract

The research question is how the Coen brothers portray the paradox of *the certainty of uncertainty* in the films, *A Serious Man* and *The Man Who Wasn't There*. The scope of the investigation is how film language is used to create this paradox. The essay follows the traditional three act structure (Setup, Confrontation and Resolution) on which movies are usually based on. The first thing that one discovers is that it is used to establish the examined paradox. The essay goes on exploring how this paradox appears in the three parts of the three act model. In the first part we look at the two opening scenes. In *A Serious Man* the brothers use different setting, characters and storyline in order to plant uncertainty in the audience. In opening scene of *The Man Who Wasn't There* the paradox is created by disconnecting the visual image from the narration. The second part of the essay discussed how the protagonists try to deal with uncertainty. It is seen in the symbolic scene of *A Serious Man* when the main character climbs up to the roof in order to fix the TV aerial. *The Man Who Wasn't There* uses the paradox to show the questionable personality of its protagonist. The UFO motif frequently appears in the movie implying uncertainty and doubt. In the last part our expectation towards the end cannot be fulfilled, because both of the movies end with the paradox without giving a certain resolution. The conclusion that we reach is that the only thing that one can be sure, by watching the two movies is uncertainty. Cinematography, editing and the use of sound create ambiguity in the audience. As a result of that, the audience is kept in constant uncertainty throughout the movies.

Word Count: 293

The next page has your table of contents. For example:

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
A look at film genre	4
• Western	4
• Samurai	5
Understanding the iconography of the film	6
• Cowboy iconography	7
• Samurai iconography	8
Film Plot: Similarities and Differences	9
• Similarities	10
• Differences	11
Conclusion	13
Bibliography	14

Your essay starts on the next page, beginning with your introduction. Signpost your introduction like this:

Introduction

Lastly, to get full credit for **criterion I**, all pages need to be numbered, your session number should be in the header or footer, and you should be consistent with your citation method (MLA). The final pages of your essay contain your bibliography and appendices (if any).

Summary of Criterion I

First page: title page

Second page: abstract

Third page: table of contents

Fourth page: Introduction. The introduction is an item listed on the table of contents. The essay itself then follows. Sub-headings are also listed in the ToC. Final paragraphs contain your conclusion.

Last pages: bibliography (mandatory) and appendices (if appropriate)

All pages: numbered and include your session number in header/footer.

Furthermore

- Use 12 point font
- Use a readable font. This isn't the place to *SHOW* your creativity.
- Double space unless otherwise instructed. Follow MLA guidelines.
- Use appropriate margins
- Use consistent pagination

Other helpful hints

Structure

- Plan the outline headings for the essay in the form of an outline. This outline is the spine of your essay.
- Essays without spines are gelatinous blobs. That is a bad thing.
- Have your mentor approve your outline before you start writing.

You must have a Bibliography!

- Failure to comply with this requirement will be viewed as plagiarism and will, therefore, be treated as a case of malpractice.

The Word Count

- Maximum length 4000 words **not including**:
 - the abstract
 - the contents page
 - maps, charts, diagrams, annotated illustrations
 - Labels
 - equations, formulas and calculations
 - citations/references
 - footnotes or endnotes
 - the bibliography
 - Appendices (if any)

Appendices

- The Appendices should not include information of direct relevance to the analysis and argument in the main body of the essay.
- Unless raw data is used unprocessed as part of the argument, the raw data should go in the Appendices.

Plagiarism check

Be sure to upload your final draft to Anti-Plagiarism app to check for any red flags. Once you have done this turn your work in to the EE supervisor.

The EE supervisor will turn in your essay to the IB Coordinator.

Do it on holidays

- https://ibpublishing.ibo.org/extendedessay/apps/dpapp/index.html?doc=d_0_ee_yyy_gui_1602_1_e&part=1&chapter=1
- Choose possible subjects and topics (min 3 topics)
- Examine other materials (in VK group)