

Extended Essay Assessment
Criterion A: Focus and Method

Criterion Strands:

1. Topic 2. Research Question 3. Methodology

What this Criterion assesses:

- The explanation of the focus of the research
 - This includes topic and the research question
- How the research will be undertaken
- How the focus is maintained throughout the essay

Assessed with 6 marks

- Highest = 6
- Lowest = 0

Questions that you may ask the student and/or prompt feedback:

- Is the topic communicated accurately and effectively?
- Is the research question clear and does it address the issue of research that is appropriately connected to the discussion of the essay?
- Is the purpose and focus of the research clear and appropriate?
- Have an appropriate range of relevant source(s) and/or method(s) been applied in relation to the topic and research question?
- Is there evidence of effective and informed selection of sources and/or methods?

Level	Strand	Descriptor	Indicator
0	The work does not reach a standard outlined by the descriptors below		

Extended Essay Assessment
Criterion A: Focus and Method

Level	Strand	Descriptor	Indicator
1-2	Topic	The topic is communicated unclearly and incompletely	☐ Identification and explanation of the topic is limited; the pulse and focus of the research is unclear, or does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject for which it is registered
	Research Question	The research question is stated but not clearly expressed or too broad	☐ The research question is too broad in scope to be treated effectively within the word limit and requirements of the task, or does not lend itself to a systematic investigation in the subject for which it is registered ☐ The intent of the research question is understood but has not been clearly expressed and/or the discussion of the essay is not focused on the research question
	Methodology	The methodology of the research is limited	☐ The source(s) and/or method(s) to be used are limited in range given the topic and research question ☐ There is limited evidence that their selection was informed
Level	Strand	Descriptor	Indicator
3-4	Topic	The topic is communicated	☐ Identification and explanation of the research topic is communicated; the purpose and focus of the research is adequately clear, but only partially appropriate
	Research Question	The research question is clearly stated but only partially focused	☐ The research question is clear but the discussion in the essay is only partially focused and connected to the research question
	Methodology	Methodology of the research is mostly complete	☐ Source(s) and/or method(s) to be used are generally relevant and appropriate given the topic and research question ☐ There is some evidence that their selection(s) was informed
Level	Strand	Descriptor	Indicator
5-6	Topic	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
	Research Question	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	Methodology of the research is complete	☐ Source(s) and/or method(s) has been selected in relation to the topic and research question ☐ There is evidence of effective and informed selection of sources and/or methods