

Extended essay: Example commentary			
Subject	English A: language and literature	WSEE theme (if applicable):	
Category for language essays (if applicable):	Category 2	Subjects used for WSEE (if applicable):	
Title of essay:	Life and death: attitudes to death in Clarice Lispector's <i>Near to the Wild Heart</i> and James Joyce's <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>		
Research question:	To what extent are attitudes to death important in the characterisation and development of Joana in <i>Near to the Wild Heart</i> and Stephen in <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> ?		
Assessment details			
Criterion	Mark awarded	Commentary	

<p>A: Focus and method</p> <p>[Maximum possible mark: 6]</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>The research question is clearly stated and the secondary sources, mostly academic books and journal articles, are effective and informed for a literary analysis. The two seemingly unrelated sources—one Irish, one Brazilian—are capably and effectively connected through language and theme; the methodology is explained and appropriate.</p>
<p>B: Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>[Maximum possible mark: 6]</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>There is excellent knowledge and understanding: the candidate applies the two primary sources carefully to the research question and the integration of secondary sources throughout deepens the knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>There is also a good use of terminology throughout.</p>

<p>C: Critical thinking</p> <p>[Maximum possible mark: 12]</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>The research throughout is excellent, with both primary and secondary sources engaging the research question. The candidate uses effective transitions between the primary sources that create an effective and reasoned argument. There is sound analysis throughout, as conclusions are effectively supported by textual evidence.</p>
<p>D: Presentation</p> <p>[Maximum possible mark: 4]</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>All elements are in place. The structure supports the argument as the candidate effectively contrasts the primary sources via a point-by-point format, alternating each text throughout.</p>
<p>E: Engagement</p> <p>[Maximum possible mark: 6]</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>There is an engagement with—and an excitement about—the topic from reading Joyce that reflects the candidate's investment in the EE. There is reflection on both the research and the writing process, including challenges</p>

		overcome, that demonstrates intellectual engagement with the topic.
Total marks awarded	34/34	This is an excellent example of a carefully researched, planned, and argued category 2 essay, with thoughtful use of both primary and secondary sources.