

The Extended Essay For students graduating in May 2004

The IB publishes a booklet that contains the general guidelines and subject specific guidelines for the extended essay. Students should get a copy of both sets of guidelines from the IB coordinators. The following information is taken from the guidelines.

Supervision

The extended essay supervisor has four principal responsibilities:

- To encourage and support the candidate throughout the research and writing of the extended essay
- To provide the candidate with advice and guidance in the skills of undertaking research
- To ensure that the extended essay is the candidate's own work
- To complete the supervisor's report

It is recommended that candidates spend about 40 hours in total on the extended essay. The amount of time spent by the supervisor with each candidate will vary depending on circumstances but will usually be two to three hours in total.

The Nature of the Extended Essay

The extended essay is defined as an in-depth study of a limited topic within a subject. Its purpose is to provide candidates with an opportunity to engage in independent research. Emphasis is placed on the process of engaging in personal research, on the communication of ideas and information in a logical and coherent manner and on the overall presentation of the extended essay in compliance with the guidelines.

The Choice of Subject

The subject must be chosen from the IB approved list below. 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 about which the candidate has sufficient knowledge and skills. Candidates should also base the choice of subject on the level of personal interest they have in the subject.

Literature	Chemistry
History	Physics
Geography	Environmental Systems
Economics	Design Technology
Philosophy	Mathematics
Psychology	Visual Arts
Social and Cultural Anthropology	Music
Business and Management	Theatre Arts
Islamic History	Computer Science
Information Technology in a global society	World Religions
Biology	Politics
	Peace and Conflict Studies

The Choice of Topic

The topic of the extended essay is the particular area of study within the chosen subject. 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 opportunity to collect and generate information and/or data for analysis and evaluation. Candidates are not expected to make a contribution to knowledge within a subject.

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.

A helpful source to consult when formulating a research question:

http://www.esc.edu/esconline/across_esc/writerscomplex.nsf/wholeshortlinks2/Developing+Question?open

The Research and Writing Process

Research → Focus → Search for sources → Develop a research question → Preparatory reading → Develop a working outline → Assemble all sources and write a rough draft → Revise and edit → Write final draft

Helpful sources to consult when researching and writing:

<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/crsweb/infolit/andyou/infoyou.htm> (A research facility outlining the research process and including elements such as defining the question and finding resources using online resources. The user is lead through the research process from start to finish.)

<http://www4.tpgi.com.au/welwel/Studentguide/Studentguide.htm> (This source offers advice on defining, locating, selecting, organizing, presenting and evaluating information. The page is a door to numerous other sites and links which are valuable resources for the research process.)

Deadlines

March 3 Name of your mentor and the subject area you are most interested in due to both the IB office and mentor

June 2 Research question due to both the IB office and mentor

September 12 Detailed, working outline due to both the IB office and mentor

October 17 First draft of paper (minimum 3000 words) due to both the IB office and mentor

December 19 All students must meet and discuss first draft and next steps with mentors before Winter Break (Mentors will give progress report of meeting to IB office)

January 16 Final draft of paper due to both the IB office and mentor

Remember to keep in contact with your mentor throughout this process. You may hand in any parts of the process before these deadlines, but you cannot hand in work after the above dates. If you miss any of the above deadlines, you will not be registered with IB as a diploma candidate.

Some past topics that have received a grade of "A" from IB:

- *The Impact of the Soviet Occupation of the Baltic on Estonian culture*
- *The Rationale behind the allied powers' firebombing of Dresden during World War II*
- *The role of the Catholic Church regarding Nazi idealism and Anti-Semitic practices throughout WWII*
- *The development of Aggression in Children*

- *The effects of groups on individual performance*
- *Possible Causes of "Gulf War Syndrome"*

Copies of most of the "A" papers are available in the media center for you to look over as you begin thinking about your extended essays.

See Ms. Bousel or Ms. McHugh in the IB office in Subschool 11 if you have any further questions.