



The Extended Essay

What You Need to Know About the Extended Essay (EE)

- It is a formal independent research essay on a focused topic from any of the approved Diploma Programme subjects; it is researched and written over the course of two years and is the result of approximately 40 hours (minimum) of work by the student.
- It is compulsory for all Diploma Programme students.
- It must be no more than 4000 words.
- It is externally assessed
- Is graded from A-E with A being the highest score - most students achieve marks of B, C, or D
- In combination with the grade for TOK, the EE contributes to a maximum of 3 points to the total IB Diploma score out of 45
- Students must follow the principles of academic honesty as outlined by CIS and by the IBO

In the Diploma Programme, the extended essay is the **prime example of a piece of work where the student has the opportunity to show knowledge, understanding and enthusiasm about a topic of his or her choice.**

How will the EE work at CIS?

- CIS has designated an EE coordinator, who will be in charge of overseeing the process for all IB Diploma students
- A teacher supervisor will be assigned to the student for guidance and advice (5 hours maximum throughout the course of the EE will be allocated for this purpose); however, the actual work of researching and writing the essay is the student's responsibility.
- The EE Coordinator will get dedicated time each week to work with students and their EE supervisors
- The EE process will begin around December of Year 1 and end around December of Year 2
- Periodic deadlines will be set to keep students on track throughout the process
- After submitting the EE, a viva voce (a short interview) with the supervisor will be conducted. The purpose of this interview is to reflect on the process of writing the essay, clarify elements of the essay, check for plagiarism/malpractice, and to aid in the supervisor's report.

Why Write the Extended Essay?

Other than the fact that the EE is required in order for the IB student to graduate with an IB diploma, there are many benefits to writing the EE. The Extended Essay:

- Develops high-level research, writing, and critical thinking skills required for university.
- Offers a comprehensive educational experience (i.e. allows for application of skills and knowledge learned in class and provides a rich task that integrates IB values).
- Enhances university/college applications and provides a great talking point for university/college admissions interviews.
- Provides an opportunity to explore in depth an area of study the student would like to specialize in.

Sample Research Questions for the Extended Essay

Subject	Research Question
English	How is the subject of death treated in selected poems by Emily Brontë and Emily Dickinson?
History	To what extent were Hitler's educational aims fulfilled in the Uhland Gymnasium, 1937–1939?
Chemistry	Does the time it takes to brew a cup of tea using a specific commercial brand of tea leaves significantly alter the amount of caffeine that is dissolved in the drink?
Mathematics	What is the legacy of Archimedes' calculations of circular and parabolic areas in today's methods of integration?
French	Should feminine forms of more job titles be created in French to reflect shifting gender roles?
Biology	Are commercially available antibacterial cleaning agents effective at controlling the growth of E. coli on nutrient agar under laboratory conditions?

EE Assessment Criteria

- A: Research Question (/2)
- B: Introduction (/2)
- C: Investigation (/4)
- D: Knowledge and understanding of the topic investigated (/4)
- E: Reasoned argument (/4)
- F: Application of analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to the subject (/4)
- G: Use of language appropriate to the subject (/4)
- H: Conclusion (/2)
- I: Formal presentation (/4)
- J: Abstract (/2)
- K: Holistic judgment (/4)

Total /36

