

How do you get Top Marks in your extended essay in Economics?

- How to get a top grade? Remember this is a research question (RQ) based essay and the marks scheme focuses heavily on connecting your RQ with your research data/information and economic theory.
- The boxes below are each directed toward the IB marking criteria for extended essays. Your essay should try to answer each statement.
- Read your essay and while reading complete this assessment sheet; this should take about 20 minutes. Consider each question/category carefully and then grade yourself in each criterion. This form will help you to do this and it has some additional reminders/notes directly specific to economics. Some of the categories are optional e.g. primary research, so be sure to give marks or not only for essential requirements in each category. Key words from EE guide are underlined.
- The total mark you calculate will then give you an estimation of your EE result and whether revisions are necessary **before** you submit your final essay.
- Please use this in conjunction with the full IBO Guide. You have the detailed IBO guidelines...use it. Pages 92-109 are useful for general guidelines and pages 154-166 are specific to Economics and these pages have key advice for students of economics. You can find the IBO EE Guide in Webnote **517**.

Criterion	Task: submit this assessment form with your final essay!	
<p>A:Focus + Method</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">A-1</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">Topic</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">/2</p>	<p>Is the topic + context (relevance) established at beginning of essay?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a clear connection to a theoretical area of economics and why the topic is relevant and why it is worth investigating? Y / N • Is the topic communicated accurately and effectively i.e. <u>purpose + focus</u> of research is clear (IBO p.97) Y / N <p>Note: Question must be answerable within the word limit. Topic should relate to specific event, issue or policy from within the last 5 years. It should not concern itself with the future or hypothetical event! Note: The title does not count as part of the essay.</p> <p>Source: IBO criteria for EE page 161</p>	/ 6
<p>A:Focus + Method</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">A-2</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">Research Question</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">(Introduction)</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">/2</p>	<p>Is the research question clearly stated including the relevance and why it is worthy of investigation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you use an effective research question? Question should be specific with a clear focus and connects effectively with economic theory and is answerable within the word limit. Y / N • Did you introduce the reader to the main component parts of your essay so that the reader can understand how your story will be developed? Y / N • Does your question require research in order to reach an answer? (i.e. answer to your research question should not be obvious) Y / N <p>Note: <u>Research question</u> must be <u>connected</u> to the <u>discussion</u> (IBO p.98) in the essay i.e. discuss research Note: Make sure your question is not double-barrelled i.e. more than 1 question</p> <p>Source: IBO criteria for EE page 161</p>	
<p>A:Focus + Method</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;">A-3</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">Methodology</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">/2</p>	<p>Is there a clear methodology highlighting how the research will bring the essay to the answering the research question?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there in the early part of essay a clear methodology showing steps of the research and how you will collect data? Y / N • Have you used a suitable range of <u>relevant source(s) and/or method(s)</u> in relation to the <u>topic and the research question?</u> (IBO p.98) Y / N • Did you mention why the topic is worthy of research? Y / N <p>Note: Your research should involve secondary research and relevant economic theory including current or recent academic findings relevant to your title e.g. any academic or research findings in recent times? Note: You can use primary research such as interviews, surveys or questionnaires but if you do they must connect clearly to the research question? Primary research is not compulsory but be sure that range of respondents is relevant and statistics can be produced from the research for graphs or tables.</p> <p>Source: IBO criteria for EE . 161</p>	

B1
 B: knowledge + understanding (k+U)
 /2
context
 Context means that your research is connected to economic theory

Have you connected the theory to your research data and the research question?

- Does the essay demonstrate an effective understanding of relevant economic theory? **Y / N**
- Is all data and theory used in the essay to connect with the research question?
- Does student show good understanding of economic theory using relevant economic models? **Y / N**
- Are the models connected to the real world information found through the research? **Y / N**

Mark

B2
 B: knowledge + understanding
Terminology
 /2

Have you used economic terminology expertly?

- Have you shown K + U through expert use of economic vocabulary? **Y / N**
- Have you shown K + U through expert use of economic diagrams that are well explained and connected to the research and the RQ? **Y / N**

Note: students should not use generic diagrams from secondary sources. Diagrams that are used must be placed into the context of the essay using relevant labels and numbers (use your research to build the labels for the diagrams). Try and connect the titles of the diagrams to the RQ

Source: IBO criteria for EE page 162

/6

B3
 B: knowledge + understanding
Concepts
 /2

Have you used economic theory (diagrams, vocabulary and concepts) expertly?

- Did you use background theory and terminology (concepts) from economics e.g. externalities, to connect expertly with the research? **Y / N**
- Has your investigation been well planned? **Y / N**

Note: theory/ concepts should not be used separately and explained in a separate section disconnected from the research

Source: IBO criteria for EE p162

C1
C: critical thinking

Research

/3

Is there evidence of appropriate research?

- Is research consistently relevant to research question? **Y / N**
- Are you using your research to support your arguments in attempting to answer the RQ? **Y / N**

Note: material/content that is not clearly relevant to the research question reduce marks in this criterion

Source: IBO criteria for EE p 162

Mark

/12

C2
C: critical thinking

Analysis

/3

Is there evidence that effective analysis has been carried out?

- Is all data collected for this essay (diagrams, charts, tables, images and statistics analysed within the essay + explained adjacent to the data/diagram/table? **Y / N**
- Is the research data analysed effectively? **Y / N**
- Are conclusions/arguments made in the essay supported by your research? **Y / N**

Note: no data should be included if it is not being used to answer the RQ
Note: do not force the reader to make connections or draw conclusion as to why you are using data in your essay. State clearly its relevance in relation to the RQ

Source: IBO criteria for EE p 162

C3
C: critical thinking

Discussion

/3

Is there evidence of effective discussion in relation to the theory, research carried + the RQ?

- Does your discussion bring together the economic theory and the real world research to make clear connections with the title of your research essay? **Y / N**
- From your research do you have an effective and reasoned argument with a conclusion? **Y / N**
- Is your argument/discussion well structured and coherent? **Y / N**

Note: clear + logical argument should be made by regular reference to the RQ
Note: try and use your research as evidence to support your points/arguments
Note: essays that are over descriptive and do not show evidence of analytical skills (e.g. using your research to make your argument) will lose marks in this criterion.

Source: IBO criteria for EE p 162

C4
C: critical thinking

Evaluation

/3

Is there evidence of evaluation that highlights some issues with the research carried out?

- Does your essay show the limitations of your research in attempting to answer the RQ? **Y / N**
- Does your essay show the limitations of economic theory as it is applied to RQ and how it helps to show the strengths/weaknesses of economic theory in attempting to answer the RQ? **Y / N**
- Has your research been critically evaluated? **Y / N**

Note: do not evaluate in a separate section of the essay e.g. conclusion but integrate it into the essay where it is relevant e.g. if theory has a weakness then highlight this when you use theory.

Note: conclusion should be clearly connected with evidence and analysis in essay but do draw conclusions in earlier part of essay when making an argument. "Therefore...."

Note: Make a final conclusion in relation to the RQ ; further questions arising from the research can be recorded in the final conclusion

Note: failure to apply 5 year rule will mean a max of 3 marks for criterion c. This maximum will also apply if the essay title is inappropriate for the subject.

Source: IBO criteria for EE p 162

D1
D: Presentation

Structure

/2

Does the Presentation follow the appropriate structure, layout allowing the reader to read, understand and evaluate the essay?

- Does the essay follow accepted academic standards in terms of how it is presented helping the reader to read, understand and finally evaluate (assess) your essay? **Y / N**

Note: you can use sections and subsections in structuring your essay but use ‘informative headings’.

Note: any graphs, charts, images, or tables must be effectively labeled and if possible the labels should relate the significance to the RQ

Note: large amounts of data e.g. tables/statistics are best suited to the appendix (reader not required to read so use sparingly and do not put too much data into the appendix) where they should be carefully labeled. Too many (no clear number noted in guide) graphs, charts and images etc should be avoided but the important point is how the graph/table is explained and its significance to the RQ.

Note: tables should not have excessive amounts of text. If this is done then the words should be included in the word count of the essay.

Source: IBO criteria for EE p163

Mark

D2
D: Presentation

Layout

/2

Does the Presentation of the essay follow normal practice in economics in terms of presenting data effectively e.g. graphs, tables, references (see notes below)?

- Did you put data as close as possible to where it is explained or referred to in your essay? **Y / N**
- Did you put all information with direct relevance to the analysis, discussion and evaluation should be in the main body of the essay (not in the appendix)? **Y / N**
- Is the bibliography included? **Y / N**
- Do you meet the minimum requirements (these include name of author, date of publication, title of source, and page numbers for referencing)? **Y / N**

Note: Other presentation requirements include the title page, table of contents, page numbers etc Exceeding the word count does not have a specific penalty in the Guide but reader not required to read beyond 4,000 words e.g. conclusion might not be read so several criteria would be affected

Note: incomplete referencing is not penalized in criterion D but supervisors are advised to notify the IBO in relation to a possible case of academic misconduct.

Note: criterion D assesses references and bibliography and if these are consistently laid out in an appropriate academic manner then full marks can be awarded.

Source: IBO criteria for EE p164

/4

E1
E: engagement

Process

/3

Do your reflections highlight your level of engagement in this research essay?

- Do your reflections show that you effectively managed the economic topic for the essay, the methods used and approach used to answer the RQ? **Y / N**
- Were decisions used made throughout the planning process acted upon before completing the essay? **Y / N**

Note: this criterion assesses the student’s engagement with the research focus and the research process. It is based primarily on the candidate’s reflections as completed on the RPPF in the context of the essay itself and the comments made by the supervisor.

Note: students could reflect on:

- success of strategies chosen
- approaches to learning skills that were developed e.g. research
- improved conceptual understanding as a result of research of topic
- challenges faced in research and how these were overcome
- questions that emerged as a result of the research
- what they would do differently if undertaking such research again?

Source: IBO criteria for EE page 164

Mark

/6

E2
E: engagement

Research focus

/3

Do you show evidence of critical and reflective thinking in the EE process?

- Do your reflections give the examiner an insight into student thinking, creativity and originality within the research process (in other words do your reflections show a high degree of intellectual and personal engagement with the research carried out? **Y / N**

Note: “The student voice must be clearly present and demonstrate the learning that has taken place.” (page 165)

Source: IBO criteria for EE page 165

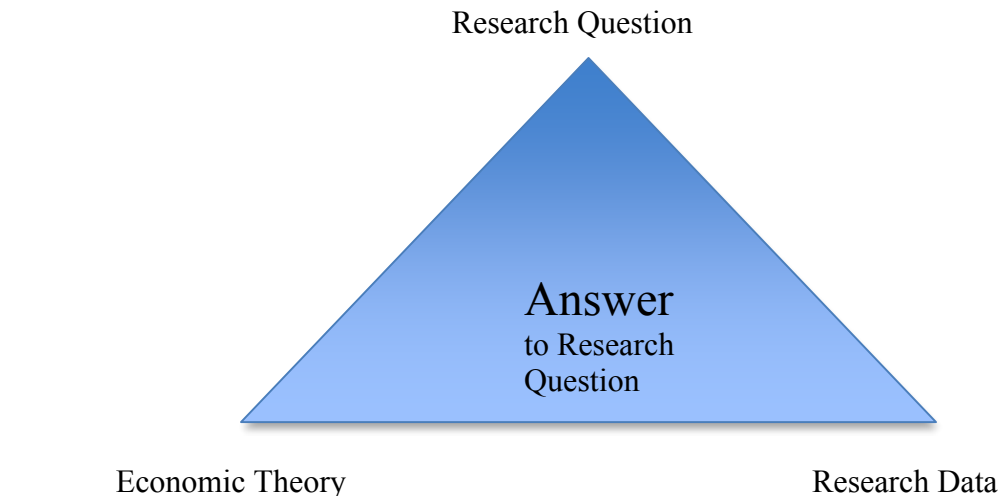
Total student estimated mark/letter grade:

/34 Grade ()

Possible Grade Boundaries:
 A = 27-34
 B = 21-26
 C = 14-20
 D = 7-13
 E = 0-6

NB: Read the Rubric in the IBO Guide. It is important to read the rubric pages 97-102 in order and how your how your essay will be graded and the mark you will get out of the total marks (34). This self assessment will help you to improve by focusing on each criterion.

What is your Extended Essay about?



Economics EE

Overall grade boundaries

Grade:	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range:	0-6	7-13	14-20	21-26	27-34