

Checklist of the new IB assessment criteria

Criterion	Unpacking the criterion – advice for students
A: focus and method	This criterion focuses on the topic, the research question and the methodology. It assesses the explanation of the focus of the research (this includes the topic and the research question), how the research will be undertaken, and how the focus is maintained throughout the essay.
B: knowledge and understanding	This criterion assesses the extent to which the research relates to the subject area/discipline used to explore the research question; or in the case of the World Studies Extended Essay, the issue addressed and the two disciplinary perspectives applied; and additionally, the way in which this knowledge and understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate terminology and concepts.
C: critical thinking	This criterion assesses the extent to which critical thinking skills have been used to analyse and evaluate the research undertaken.
D: formal presentation	This criterion assesses the extent to which the presentation follows the standard format expected for academic writing and the extent to which this aids effective communication.
E: engagement	This criterion assesses the student's engagement with their research focus and the research process. It will be applied by the examiner at the end of the assessment of the essay, after considering the student's ' <i>Reflections on Planning and Progress</i> ' form.