

## Geography Extended Essay specific guidance and checklist

### Criterion A – Focus and Method (Strands: Topic, Research Question, methodology)

#### Focus

|                                                                                                                                          |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Have you clearly indicated the topic of your EE at the beginning?                                                                        |  |
| Have you included the area of the research, and location, including a map?                                                               |  |
| Have you included the purpose of the research and focus on the essay in order to clearly establish the context of the research question? |  |
| Have you included some general locational background?                                                                                    |  |
| Have you included an appropriate geographic theory or concept?                                                                           |  |
| Is there a clear spatial component?                                                                                                      |  |
| Have you stated your research question at the start of the essay – in bold?                                                              |  |
| Are your title and research question on the title page?                                                                                  |  |

To gain 5-6 marks the marking criteria states:

Identification and explanation of the research topic is effectively communicated; the purpose and focus of the research is clear and appropriate

- The research question is clearly stated and focused.
- The research question is clear and addresses an issue of research that is appropriately connected to the discussion in the essay.

#### Method

|                                                                                                                                                |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Have you demonstrated within the essay that your research methodology has been well planned? And that it is appropriate for addressing the RQ. |  |
| Have you selected an appropriate geographic approach to address the Research Question?                                                         |  |
| Have you included both primary and secondary data?                                                                                             |  |
| Have you clearly explained the investigative methods?                                                                                          |  |
| Have you discussed the reliability of the research?                                                                                            |  |

To gain 5-6 marks the marking criteria states:

Methodology of the research is complete.

- An appropriate range of relevant source(s) and/or method(s) have been applied in relation to the topic and research question.
- There is evidence of effective and informed selection of sources and/or methods.

### Criterion B – knowledge and understanding (Strands: Context, Subject-specific terminology and concepts)

|                                                                       |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Are your source materials clearly relevant and appropriate to the RQ? |  |
| Have you referenced them correctly?                                   |  |
| Do they help demonstrate your understanding of the topic?             |  |
| Do they support your argument?                                        |  |
| Have you included both literature sources and data collected?         |  |
| Have you used appropriate geography specific terminology?             |  |



|                                                |  |
|------------------------------------------------|--|
| Is your tense consistent throughout the essay? |  |
|------------------------------------------------|--|

To gain 5-6 marks the marking criteria states:

Knowledge and understanding is excellent.

- The selection of source materials is clearly relevant and appropriate to the research question.
- Knowledge of the topic/issue is clear and coherent and sources are used effectively and with understanding.

Use of terminology and concepts is good.

- The use of subject specific terminology and concepts is accurate and consistent, demonstrating effective knowledge and understanding.

### Criterion C – Critical thinking (Strands: Research, Analysis and discussion and evaluation)

|                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| If you have carried out a survey, have you explained the sampling technique and included your system of selection and size of the sample?                                                |  |
| Have you included a minimum of two maps of various scales and types?                                                                                                                     |  |
| Have you included statistical analysis?                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Have you included a variety of graphs? Do they aid communication of your analysis?                                                                                                       |  |
| Have you referred to the RQ and hypotheses throughout the essay?                                                                                                                         |  |
| Have you assessed to the extent to which the hypotheses are supported and the question is answered by the use of your data?                                                              |  |
| Have you identified any anomalies?                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| Have you pointed out any unresolved issues and made suggestions as to how these might be further investigated?                                                                           |  |
| Have you commented on the reliability, quantity, balance and quality of your research, including your own data and published material?                                                   |  |
| Have you identified any limitations in your approach? Have you commented on the validity and reliability of your data relative to your management of variables within the investigation? |  |

To gain **10-12** marks the marking criteria states:

The research is excellent.

- The research is appropriate to the RQ and its application is consistently relevant.

Analysis is excellent.

- The research is analysed effectively and clearly focused on the research question; the inclusion of less relevant research does not significantly detract from the quality of the overall analysis.
- Conclusions to individual points of analysis are effectively supported by the evidence.

Discussion/evaluation is excellent.

- An effective and focused reasoned argument is developed from the research with a conclusion reflective of the evidence presented.
- This reasoned argument is well structured and coherent; any minor inconsistencies do not hinder the strength of the overall argument or the final or summative conclusion.
- The research has been critically evaluated.



## Criterion D – Presentation (Strands: Structure, Layout)

|                                                                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Have you included a contents page?                                                |  |
| Have you put in headings for each section and sub-sections?                       |  |
| Have you put your graphs at the appropriate places throughout the essay?          |  |
| Have you labelled and referenced all maps, graphs and diagrams?                   |  |
| Are all maps, graphs and diagrams of good quality and contribute to the argument? |  |
| Is your raw data and copy of surveys in the appendix?                             |  |
| Have you created most of your maps and graphs yourself?                           |  |
| Have you referenced correctly all quotes and ideas from other sources?            |  |
| Does your referencing follow a consistent pattern of presentation?                |  |
| Have you included a Title page, table of contents, page numbers and bibliography? |  |
| Does your essay exceed the 4000 word maximum?                                     |  |

To gain 3-4 marks the marking criteria states:

Presentation is good.

- The structure of the essay clearly is appropriate in terms of the expected conventions for the topic, the argument and subject in which the essay is registered.
- Layout considerations are present and applied correctly.
- The structure and layout support the reading, understanding and evaluation of the extended essay.

## Criterion E – Engagement (Strands: Process, Research focus)

|                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Reflection 1 (approx. 150 words)</b>                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Have you reflected on the decision-making and planning process undertaken in completing the essay?                                                                                       |  |
| Have you explained how you arrived at your topic and research question?                                                                                                                  |  |
| Have you explained how you worked out what your methodology would be?                                                                                                                    |  |
| <b>Reflection 2 (approx. 150 words)</b>                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Is there evidence of your thought processes for changes?                                                                                                                                 |  |
| Have you discussed how your conceptual understandings have developed or changed as a result of your research?                                                                            |  |
| Have you discussed the setbacks you have faced in your research and how you overcame these?                                                                                              |  |
| <b>Reflection 3 – (After the viva voce and approx. 200 words)</b>                                                                                                                        |  |
| Have you mentioned any questions that emerged as a result of the research?                                                                                                               |  |
| Have you mentioned what you would do differently if you were able to undertake the research again?                                                                                       |  |
| Have you discussed the <i>Approaches to learning skills</i> that you have developed and their effect on you as a learner? (E.g. reflective, critical thinking, and communication skills) |  |
| <b>Overall impression</b>                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| Do your 3 reflections highlight the journey you have engaged in through the EE process?                                                                                                  |  |
| Do your reflections provide the examiner an insight into your thinking, creativity                                                                                                       |  |

and originality within the research process?

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Can the examiner hear YOUR voice? |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|

To gain 5-6 marks the marking criteria states:

Engagement is excellent.

- Reflections on decision-making and planning are evaluative and include reference to the student's capacity to consider actions and ideas in response to setbacks experienced in the research process.
- These reflections communicate a high degree of intellectual and personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating authenticity, intellectual initiative and/or creative approach in the student voice.

