
The extended essay of some 4,000 words offers the opportunity for IB students to investigate a topic of special interest, usually one of the student's six Diploma Programme subjects, and acquaints them with the independent research and writing skills expected at university. It is intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity—resulting in approximately 40 hours of work. It provides students with an opportunity to engage in personal research on a topic of choice, under the guidance of a supervisor.

This leads to a major piece of formally presented, structured writing of no more than 4,000 words, in which ideas and findings are communicated in a reasoned and coherent manner, appropriate to the subject. It is recommended that students follow the completion of the written essay with a short, concluding interview—*viva voce*—with the supervisor. In countries where normally interviews are required prior to acceptance for employment or for a place at university, the extended essay has proved

- encourage students to reflect on their experiences as learners, in everyday life and in the Diploma Programme, and to make connections between academic disciplines and between thoughts, feelings and actions
- encourage an interest in the diversity of ways of thinking and ways of living of individuals and communities, and an awareness of personal and ideological assumptions, including participants' own
- encourage consideration of the responsibilities originating from the relationship between knowledge, the community and the individual as citizen of the world.

The theory of knowledge assessment model contains two components, both of which should be completed within the 100 hours designated for the course. Presentations are an integral part of the course.

Type of assessment	Format of assessment	Weighting of final grade (%)
External assessment	Essay (1,200 to 1,600 words) on a prescribed title	65
	Essay on a title chosen from a list of 10 titles prescribed by the IB for each examination session	
Internal assessment	One 10-minute presentation to the class	35
	The theory of knowledge presentation requires students to identify and explore the knowledge issues raised by a substantive real-life situation that is of interest to them.	

The two assessment tasks, the essay and the presentation, are seen as complementary opportunities for students to show the extent to which they have achieved the theory of knowledge course objectives. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- analyse critically knowledge claims, their underlying assumptions and their implications

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