THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

EXTENDED ESSAY

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The IBDP Extended Essay is a 4,000-word independent research paper required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It enables students to explore a topic of personal interest within a chosen subject, fostering skills in research, critical thinking, and academic writing, culminating in a comprehensive, well-argued dissertation.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

- Research skills: Understanding how to locate, evaluate, and use various sources.
- Academic writing: Ability to structure an essay, develop arguments, and use proper citation.
- Subject knowledge: A strong foundation in the subject area chosen for the essay.
- Time management: Skills to plan, execute, and revise the essay over an extended period.

GCSE or equivalent
IELTS 5.5 or equivalent

EXAM BOARD

IB

COURSE CONTENT / EXTENDED ESSAY PROCESS

Year 1 and Year 2	Year 2
The research process involves the following steps, though the order may unfold differently for different students. •Choose a broad topic then refine and focus it. • Decide the appropriate pathway: interdisciplinary or subject focused. • Choose the approved DP subject(s). • Undertake some preparatory reading. • Form a well-focused research question. • Plan the research and writing process. • Plan a structure for the essay. This may change as the research develops. • Carry out the research.	**Writing and formal presentation** The required elements of the final submission are as follows. • Title page • Contents page • Introduction • Body of the essay • Conclusion • References and bibliography The upper limit of 4,000 words includes the introduction, body, conclusion and any quotations. **Reflection process** Reflection is the process by which students recapture their experience and think about its impact on them as learners. This includes how they envisage applying what they have learned to other circumstances, including future studies, career, or life in general. To assist students with this, there are three mandatory, formal reflection sessions with the supervisor. The reflection sessions also give students the opportunity to: • reflect on their engagement with the research process • consider the effectiveness of their choices • re-examine their ideas and decide whether changes are needed.

	The final reflection session is the viva voce, a short interview (10–15 minutes) between the student and the supervisor. The viva voce serves to check academic integrity, reflect on successes and difficulties, and think about what has been learned. Reflective thinking is recorded as a 500-word reflective statement. The student writes the statement at the end of the extended essay process and includes it on the reflection and progress form (RPF). The form also notes the student's attendance at each reflection session.

ASSESSMENT

The extended essay contributes to the student's overall score for the diploma through points awarded in conjunction with theory of knowledge. A maximum of three points are awarded according to a student's combined performance in both the extended essay and theory of knowledge.

The extended essay, whether subject-focused or interdisciplinary, is assessed against common criteria. In working on the extended essay, students are expected to achieve the following assessment objectives.

Assessment Objectives	
Know and understand	• To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the topic chosen and the research question posed.

	• To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of terminology and concepts. • To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant research methods.
Apply and analyse	• To apply relevant research methods to respond to the research question. • To analyse the research to determine appropriate findings.
Synthesize and evaluate	• To discuss in a balanced way the significance of the research findings. • To develop a clear line of argument that links the research question, research findings, and conclusions. • To evaluate the effectiveness of the essay. • To evaluate the extended essay learning experience and reflect on the growth of the learner.
Communicate research	• To communicate research according to appropriate structural conventions.

	• To understand and demonstrate academic integrity.

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
Extended Essay Course Companion (Oxford IB Diploma Programme)	978-0-19837-7764	Kosta Lekanides

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

The Extended Essay is a compulsory component of the IB diploma programme as this focuses not only on the academic enrichment of the student, but their personal development as a well-rounded individual. The Extended Essay complements the academic enrichment of IB diploma students and allows explicit development of a range of skills that are desirable for any successful university-level educational pathway.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Jemma Jones and Julie Russell