

Criterion 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, and is based solely on the candidate's reflections as detailed on the [RPPF](#), with the supervisory comments and extended essay itself as context.

Level	Descriptor of strands and indicators
0	The work does not reach a standard outlined by the descriptors or a RPPF has not been submitted.
1–2	Engagement is limited. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on decision-making and planning are mostly descriptive.• These reflections communicate a limited degree of personal engagement with the research focus and/or research process.
3–4	Engagement is good. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on decision-making and planning are analytical and include reference to conceptual understanding and skill development.• These reflections communicate a moderate degree of personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating some intellectual initiative.
5–6	Engagement is excellent. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on decision-making and planning are evaluative and include reference to the student's capacity to consider actions and ideas in response to challenges 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.