



Word counts

The upper limit is 4,000 words for all extended essays.

Please note: Examiners are instructed not to read or assess any material in excess of the word limit. This means that essays containing more than 4,000 words will be compromised across all assessment criteria. Given the holistic nature of the assessment criteria, students who write in excess of the word limit will self-penalize across all criteria. For example, in criterion B, any knowledge and understanding demonstrated beyond the 4,000-word limit will be treated as if it were not present; in criterion C, analysis, discussion or evaluation made beyond the 4,000-word limit will be treated as if the point had not been made.

Supervisors and students should be aware that the e-upload of extended essays will facilitate the automatic recognition of a cut-off point for assessment. Students should ensure that they remain within the word limit and should edit accordingly.

Please refer to the following guidance on what content should be included in the word count.

 Included in the word count	 Not included in the word count
The introduction	The contents page
The main body	Maps, charts, diagrams, annotated illustrations
The conclusion	Tables
Quotations	Equations, formulas and calculations
Footnotes and/or endnotes that are not references	Citations/references (whether parenthetical, numbered, footnotes or endnotes)
	The bibliography
	The <i>Reflections on planning and progress form</i>

Please refer to the document entitled [Diploma Programme assessment: Principles and practice](#) for further clarification of word count requirements.

A note for students writing in Chinese and Japanese:

Students writing their extended essay in Japanese or Chinese should use the following conversions.

- Japanese: 1 word = approximately 2 Japanese characters (upper limit 8,000 characters)
- Chinese: 1 word = approximately 1.2 Chinese characters (upper limit 4,800 characters)

When typing in Chinese, word processing software is likely to include the number of characters **and** punctuation in the word count. Students are asked to **not** include punctuation in the word count for assessed work. The word count should only take into account the number of characters typed.