

Korean A

Overall grade boundaries

Grade:	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range:	0-7	8-15	16-22	23-28	29-36

The range and suitability of the work submitted

Most of the essays submitted by candidates were suitable and satisfactory. However, some essays were based on comparisons of story plots and provided only superficial analysis. More essays in category 3 demonstrated detailed and illuminating analysis of the text and its context and provided well-constructed and convincing arguments. The main focus in most category 3 essays submitted were language and mass communication and language in a cultural context. Topics ranged from advertising, images with text, literary and non-literary written texts to mobile messages, social networks, web pages and newly coined words.

A fair number of candidates did not have a clear grasp of how to tackle category 3 EE. The research question and analysis of the EE were not related to studies in language. Some candidates used honorific terms and colloquialisms for extended essays. In addition, categories were not specified in many essays, there was some misapplication of categories, and some essays lacked page numbers. A few essays quoted and analysed in conclusions, thus presenting new information which is advised against in the EE guide. Compared to last year, more essays have shown high quality research questions, analysis and evaluation. Most category 1 and 2 essays were based on a wide range of novels, poetry, plays, essays and works in translation, with topics from Lee Geun Sam, Kim Seung Ok, Chae Man Sik to Arthur Miller and Sophocles.

Candidate performance against each criterion

Criterion A: research question

The research questions of some category 3 essays were not related to studies in language. Some research questions were too obvious and/or too broad. In one instance, the research question was not clear at all in the abstract or introduction.

Criterion B: introduction

Research questions were not clearly stated in the introduction or title page of some of the essays.

Criterion C: investigation

A few essays were based on a single literary work. Most essays consulted a sufficient range of appropriate sources, gathered data and relevant material. However, some essays listed irrelevant material, data and works in the bibliography.

Criterion D: knowledge and understanding of the topic studied

Most essays demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of topics studied. However, some essays merely introduced their knowledge and understanding in the form of a narrative. They did not describe their investigation in an academic context.

Criterion E: reasoned argument

A fair number of essays lacked the candidate's own arguments, but rather just followed those arguments of established researchers and scholars without question. Most essays developed reasoned arguments, but some essays were weak or insufficient in providing reasoned arguments and supporting evidence. Some essays had difficulties in developing in-depth analysis into reasoned arguments.

Criterion F: application of analytical and evaluative skills

The analytical and evaluative skills were not appropriate to the subject in some essays. The effective and sophisticated application of appropriate analytical and evaluative skills was weak in quite a few essays. Some category 1 or 2 essays depended too much on internet secondary sources without referring to important main primary sources.

Criterion G: use of language appropriate to the subject

Most essays communicated clearly with accurate use of terminology although there were occasional lapses. A few essays contained errors in register. Candidates should be more careful about the use of language with regard to their essays.

Criterion H: conclusion

There were quotations and citations without analytical results and supported arguments in the conclusion of some of the essays. A few essays focused on quotations and analysis in their conclusions. In some essays, the conclusion was simply a repetition of the introduction and main body. Many essays did not properly mention unsolved questions where appropriate to the subject concerned in their conclusions.

Criterion I: formal presentation

The character count of some essays exceeded the limit, whilst others were too short. A few essays did not have page numbers, contents pages or candidate numbers on each page. Some essays did not follow a standard format for title page, table of contents, page numbers, quotations, and documentation. Books and research materials that were not cited in the essays were listed in the bibliography.

Criterion J: abstract

The conclusion and investigation process were omitted in a fair number of essays. Some essays exceeded 690 Korean characters (300 English Words x 2.3) in the abstract. Approximately one fifth of essays had a 2 page-long abstract based on 300 Korean words (English words = Korean words) or 390 Korean words (300 English Words x 1.3), which suggests an incorrect knowledge of word count for Korean extended essays.

Criterion K: holistic judgement

Most essays showed some intellectual initiative, depth of understanding and insight including critical analysis of the literature and studies in language of literary and non-literary works.

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

Supervisors should be aware that character count for MYP Korean Language and Literature has been established as English words x 2.3=Korean characters. There is no reason to stray from this character limit. The family names of Korean authors should not be separated from first names using punctuation in the bibliography. Supervisors should discourage candidates from listing the books and research materials that are not cited in the essays. Candidates should be encouraged to study more primary sources than secondary internet ones for category 1 and 2 essays and to cite their references according to the standard format of documentation. Supervisors should demonstrate clear knowledge of the Extended Essay categories and criteria, which would help in their instruction to candidates to improve their essays in terms of critical and creative analysis of literary works and non-literary texts. Supervisors should be aware that word count does not include abstract, contents, page, diagrams, citations, bibliography and appendices.

Further comments

Candidates must specify the categories of extended essays. Candidates are encouraged to double check that the maximum length of the extended essay does not exceed 9,200 Korean characters without counting spaces.