

May 2016 extended essay reports

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

In most cases, essays were well-prepared and very interesting. The candidates readily referred to a range of literary features and were in most cases able to see the relationship between form and content. However, there was a tendency to present a paraphrase or summary of the text instead of an interpretation of the text.

In general, the essays showed that the research questions chosen were appropriate. However, some topics were not appropriately treated. With regard to the treatment of the topic for categories 1 and 2, the major focus of the essay should not be a pretext for interdisciplinary study and should not be treated simply as documentary evidence in a discussion of philosophical, political or social issues.

Candidates should always consider how the texts work as literature, dealing with aspects such as the effects they achieve, the devices they use and the way they are written.

Some category 3 essays did not deal with studies in language. In many essays, categories were not specified.

Most candidates showed a good understanding of the main idea of the works studied.

In general, essays showed good use of appropriate language.

General comments

Some research questions were too obvious and too broad. The research questions of some essays were not clear in the abstract or introduction.

A few essays in category 3 were not related to studies in language but social issues.

A number of essays were based on only a single literary work.

Although most candidates showed a good understanding and knowledge of the main ideas of the works studied, some appeared to have difficulties in demonstrating some linkages of works and developing their ideas appropriately.

Some category 1 or 2 essays depended too much on internet secondary sources.

Many candidates put a lot of effort into ensuring appropriate language.

Although the essays were presented with relevant references, the candidates' ideas did not appear to be well developed in the discussion of the text.

Although most essays are in the correct form, there were cases where a few candidates did not present a conclusion, outline how the investigation was undertaken or state the research question in their abstract. Some essays did not have page numbers or a contents 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. Also there were a few abstracts with over 300 words which means an automatic 0 for criterion J.

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

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.

Candidates need help in presenting their ideas in a well-developed and integrated structure. References and bibliographies for the EE should be stated where appropriate. Candidates could be encouraged to develop more confidence in fluency and independent thought through fostering of personal response. Please refer to the Extended Essay Guide for further guidance.