

Research questions, evidence and academic integrity

IB DP Extended Essay Research questions, evidence and academic integrity full package

1. The EE at a glance

The EE at a glance

IB Extended Essay: an independent, self-directed piece of research, finished as a 4000-word essay in a chosen subject, with three mandatory reflection sessions recorded on the RPPF and academic integrity throughout.

Must-know: the research question (focused, arguable, researchable); evidence made to argue with perspective and provenance; citation at the point of use and the author's own voice; reflections naming real decisions.

2. The research question

The research question

Focused (one bounded case, not a field), arguable (two defensible answers, or the essay reports instead of arguing), researchable (sources a student can reach). The question names its object, its angle and its scope.

Worked: three narrowing moves: the treaty's consequences, to the treaty and the German economy, to the reparations clauses against monetary policy in the 1923 hyperinflation: each move cuts scope and sharpens the argument.

3. Evidence and the words

Evidence and the words

Primary material read closely, secondary material positioned; every paragraph advances the answer; sources evaluated for perspective and provenance. The structure is chosen so the argument fits the limit: narrowing early spends words buying focus.

Worked: 500 words on question and historiography, 2 500 on the two contested chapters, 700 on the counterargument, 300 on the conclusion: structure serving argument, not reading.

4. Integrity

Integrity

Citation at the point of use with a consistent style, the bibliography complete, the argument's voice the author's own. The failures: the paraphrased patchwork, the uncited figure, and the ghost argument.

Worked: the reparations schedule quoted and cited at the point of use; the historians named where they disagree; the dataset's provenance stated; the author's voice carrying the comparison.

5. Reflection

Reflection

Three mandatory reflection sessions frame the journey (the question and plan; the writing and its troubles; the viva-voce conversation), and the RPPF is assessed for engagement: real decisions and their lessons, not a diary of hours.

Worked: the interim reflection: the unreadable Reichsbank minutes, the decision to argue the reparations side closely, and the lesson that a question must match reachable sources: 150 honest words.

Check yourself

Check yourself

The question focused, arguable, researchable.

Sources evaluated and made to argue.

Voice the author's own; citation consistent.

The RPPF naming real decisions.