

World Religions

Overall grade boundaries

Grade:	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range:	0-6	7-13	14-20	21-26	27-34

The range and suitability of the work submitted

As always, there was a very wide range of topics submitted for the extended essays. Most of the topics were well-chosen and, as always, aided by the interest and consequent enthusiasm of the candidates. In one or two cases topics were so particular or esoteric that, whilst still falling with the World Religions remit, nevertheless proved relatively inaccessible in terms of resources. Indeed, many candidates were hindered because the only resources available were in a language they could not read. Perhaps earlier initial research would have helped them to refocus.

Candidate performance against each criterion

Criterion A: focus and method

This was generally well-focused and thought through. Some could have been more detailed on the methodology used.

Criterion B: knowledge and understanding

The knowledge and understanding displayed was again mostly good to excellent. There were some essays where the explanation could have been better structured but the majority had worked thoroughly on their research and clearly understood the information they had found.

Criterion C: critical thinking

For perhaps the majority of candidates this will always be the most-demanding of the criteria. However, there were many who achieved marks in the highest markband. There were examples of real scholarly thinking and argument.

Criterion D: presentation

Generally, this was very good. There were some essays which had no citations and some where extensive bibliographies were not referred to at all in the essay itself but many had clearly mastered the referencing system being used and employed it faultlessly.

Criterion E: engagement

This is always the most difficult criterion to assess but based on the essays submitted and the candidates' comments most candidates had chosen topics in which they had a great interest and clearly demonstrated their engagement with the question they had set themselves.

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

Most supervisors had done a very thorough job in assisting candidates with suggestions with regards to the research questions chosen and the content and structure of the essay. Of course, there were a few of the inevitable candidates who had not taken the opportunity to meet with their supervisor in any meaningful way. For the future it might be helpful if some of the more obscure essay topics could be generally researched first as there were instances where resourcing and researching the essays proved extremely difficult for candidates and so half-way through their work they had to change title and start again.

Further comments

This session showed once again the worth of the extended essay. Many candidates expressed their gratitude for the experience, saying that without it they would not have fully prepared for college or university.