

May 2015 extended essay reports

## Peace and Conflict Studies EE

### Overall grade boundaries

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

### The range and suitability of the work submitted

The topics chosen by candidates were generally appropriate but they continue to lack the subject specific knowledge to make them successful essays in Peace and Conflict Studies.

### Candidate performance against each criterion

#### Criterion A: research question

Candidates generally articulate a good research question but frustratingly it is often stated in different words and therefore and often with a different meaning in the three different places where it is required in the essay. Candidates should be advised to state the research question very clearly in the introduction

#### Criterion B: introduction

Candidates are usually very enthusiastic about their topic and are quick to write about the importance and significance of their topic. Some candidates however only write about the historical or contemporary context or background of their topic and the significance and why it is worthy of investigation, remain implicit.

#### Criterion C: investigation

Generally candidates research their specific topic well, although there is little research done in the field and most research is book based. There is very poor research done on the subject of Peace and Conflict Studies and this is the major problem.

### Criterion D: knowledge and understanding of the topic studied

The academic context was generally very weak, with little evidence that candidates had knowledge of related theories and concepts.

### Criterion E: reasoned argument

Many candidates present their ideas clearly, logically and in a coherent manner, with reasoned and convincing arguments used in relation to the research question.

### Criterion F: application of analytical and evaluative skills

Candidates show very poor knowledge and understanding of conflict dynamics, positions and interests of parties in conflict, or analysis of possible solutions

### Criterion G: use of language appropriate to the subject:

This criterion was poorly done. It seemed to be the major problem with the great majority of extended essays in this subject, giving the impression of a lack of familiarity with the discipline.

### Criterion H: conclusion

Most candidates produce a conclusion and only in some cases does it have little to do with the evidence presented in the essay.

### Criterion I: formal presentation

Candidates generally score well here but there is room for improvement in ensuring all formal requirements are included.

### Criterion J: abstract

Generally good, however, the scope of the essay is often misunderstood to be the context of the essay rather than the how the investigation was undertaken, research methods and methodology.

### Criterion K: holistic judgement

Generally good but very few candidates scored full marks because often there seemed to be little effort taken to research Peace and Conflict studies as an academic discipline in its own right.

## Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

Supervisors should consult and show candidates the Peace and Conflict Studies syllabus and also research on line and in the main texts available on the subject. Candidates and supervisors should check mark against criteria and not just read the essay and comment that it is good writing or interesting.