



Student advisory exemplar - World Studies exemplar A

Criteria	Maximum mark	Descriptor level achieved	Comments
A Research question	2	2	Potentially a good research question. It is phrased as a question and sets a clear task. It is stated in the introduction and is potentially interdisciplinary. It fits achievement level 2.
B Introduction	2	1	Little is done to set the research question in any academic context or explain how the IB disciplines will help resolve it. More effort is needed to explain why this topic is worthy of investigation. It is appropriate to launch a World Studies Extended Essay with an introduction of several pages in length, with overt links to IB disciplines.
C Investigation	4	1	Investigation is generally weak. The Essay relies on a small number of sources, few of which are academic in nature. Chapters are themed rather than integrated into a planned response to the research question. Investigation does not appear to be systematic. It was hard to decide whether to award achievement level 1 or 2 but the lack of structure limited it to 1.
D Knowledge and understanding	4	2	The author has clearly researched the history of a genre of music of an earlier time using a variety of sources of varying validity and some understanding has resulted. This makes knowledge and understanding adequate. However little or no academic context is offered so it is not possible to go beyond achievement level 2.
E Reasoned argument	4	2	The author's voice is heard in a generally logical and coherent manner which is broadly consistent with the research question. From history, sequencing is used adequately. At times narrative dominates so again it is not possible to go beyond achievement level 2.
F Analysis and evaluation	4	1	This is the most demanding criterion. It is expected that the author shows awareness of the reliability and influence of resources used, and examines his or her own arguments for validity and effect within the academic subjects. It is an invitation to express judgement in an academic context. This hardly happens in this Essay: for example is it really true that punk was a response to the economic and political difficulties of the 1970s? This is stated but not investigated, yet it is a really good question and could have taken the author into interesting areas of the social sciences. Also, where does music fit, or is punk just taken as a given?

			Questions are raised in the Essay but not subjected to evaluative or analytical scrutiny, so achievement level 1 is awarded.
G Use of subject language	4	1	There is little evidence of thorough subject language of either History or Music. The Essay occupies the territory of both subjects but does not make use of the vocabulary, conceptual framework or theories of either. Therefore it is hard to make any judgement about accuracy or precision.
H Conclusion	2	1	The conclusion at first summarises earlier generalisations, then adds a new way of seeing punk (inappropriate in a conclusion). Nothing is done to reflect the integration of the IB subjects or point to new perspectives arising from the investigation. Achievement level 1 is most appropriate.
I Formal Presentation	4	2	The formal presentation is satisfactory but no more. Referencing and citation could have been more consistent, the contents page and chapter headings could have been better organised and the bibliography contains inconsistencies. Referencing is assessed in terms of a consistent system as far as criterion I is concerned. A little more work could have made the Essay conform to the standards expected of a research essay.
J Abstract	2	1	In the abstract it is expected that the research question, methodology and conclusion will be stated clearly. In this case the methodology is unclear, but given the presence of the other two, achievement level 1 was awarded.
K Holistic judgment	4	2	The research question is an interesting one but the Essay appears more work in progress than a finished submission. Little intellectual initiative is shown (possibility of interviews with surviving punk musicians), or depth of insight or understanding. From a World Studies point of view extracts from a researcher's reflection space and signs of emerging global conscience would have been welcome, especially in assessing this criterion.
Total		16/36	
Summative comment		In deciding which achievement level to award, examiners are instructed to read each level in ascending order until one is found which does not apply. Try this to see if you agree with the levels awarded here. The Essay achievement level scores total 16, which is the lowest mark in the range awarded C. This means it is borderline C/D but just above the borderline. The supervisor has pointed to the importance of some of the rubric-based criteria (A, B, H, I, J) but the author has not always followed through.	