The Process of Supervision of Extended Essays

For Sumter High School

Coursework

At Sumter High School, students who are candidates for the IB Diploma take a course of study that begins in the second semester of Year 1 and concludes in the second semester of Year 2. This course of study assists the student with understanding the requirements of the extended essay, the research process, documentation styles, and academic integrity. The instructor of the course is the Extended Essay Coordinator who assists students with finding a supervisor and with setting internal deadlines for the development of the extended essay over time. The EE Coordinator also assists students with learning how to navigate a university library.

Timelines

Typically, the set of deadlines will be similar to what follows.

**Year 1: Extended Essay Spring 2023 Timeline**

At each class meeting you are expected to have with you a copy of the *MLA Handbook*, your EE binder, and any assignments that may be due. The following timeline is tentative.

Friday, February 23 – First Class – KWL – Myth Busters

Friday, March 2 – Meet the Beast -- What are we supposed to do? What does IB want

from us? Hwk: Read through Subject Area Guidelines (begins p. 47) and choose

a subject area for your EE.

Friday, March 9 – Subject Area Commitment Day

Hwk: Read through the Assessment criteria both general (pp. 37-44) and subject specific.

Read through pp. 14—20 start at “The Supervisor” and stop at “Preparation for

the First Reflection Session.”

Meet with potential Supervisors and commit to one.

Friday, March 16 – Supervisor Commitment Day

Hwk: Read pp. 6—7; Review pp. 18-20 Read pp. 26—35 Begin with “The Research and Writing Process” stop at “Proofreading.”

Friday, March 23 – First Reflection Session (RPPF)Due April 20– Research Strategies

Hwk: Annotated Bibliography due April 13; Finalize Research Question; Review

pp. 26—27.

Friday, April 13 – Research Question Commitment Day; Annotated Bibliography Due

April 16

Friday, April 20 – Making an argument

Hwk: Write your 1st draft; Review pp. 27—35.

Monday, May 21, 2018 during 3rd lunch in A219 – 1st draft due—title page, outline/table

Of contents, What I know, some things others say, Working Bibliography (6

pages or more)

July 23, 2018 – Email to Mr. Barnett draft #2-- Title page, Table of Contents, body,

Works Cited, Works Consulted (9 pages or more)

**Year 2: Extended Essay Fall 2023 Timeline**

9/7/18—Summer Drafts - discuss common problems; Receive Supervisor Logs.

9/14/18 – Return signed timelines.

9/21/18 -- Supervisor Log Due w/20 min. (draft in hand); EE Rubric Exercise.

9/28/18 -- Draft #3 Due (2800++ words, Title page, Abstract, Table of Contents,

Introduction, Body, Conclusion, Works Cited, Works Consulted all in correct MLA Style!!).

10/19/18 – Supervisor Log Due w/20 min. (total of 40 min.) Planning form due.

10/26/18 -- Draft #4 Due (3200++ words, Title page, Abstract, Table of Contents,

Introduction, Body, Conclusion, Works Cited, Works Consulted all in correct MLA Style!!); self-score on EE Rubric.

12/7/18 – Supervisor Log Due w/20 min. (total of 1 hour).

12/14/18 – Draft #5 Due (3500+ words, Title page, Abstract, Table of Contents,

Introduction, Body, Conclusion, Works Cited, Works Consulted all in correct MLA Style!!)

January 7—January 18, 2019 complete Viva Voce w/Supervisor – Schedule this ahead of

time!! (Final Reflection Session due January 19, 2017).

1/25/19 – Viva Voce complete – Supervisor will turn in documents. Final draft due in

electronic form.

1/25/19 – “Thank You” note due to your Supervisor.

Choosing a Supervisor

As part of the materials provided to Extended Essay Candidates, the teacher provides a list of the subject areas that are “available” at our high school. These are subjects that are taught in our school as part of the IB DP where we have in place experienced EE Supervisors. Students are given the opportunity to become familiar with the expectations of each subject area before choosing one, and then they choose a supervisor. It is the individual student’s responsibility to make face-to-face contact with the potential supervisor, present the subject area of interest and possible general topic for research. The EE Supervisor will either accept the student in his/her caseload or send the student to a different supervisor if either his/her caseload is full (maximum of 3 students) or if he/she feels the topic is not a good fit. Upon accepting a student, the supervisor and student sign an agreement, and that agreement is returned to the Extended Essay Coordinator/Instructor.

(Supervision Agreement: “The candidate has shared with me the subject

area guidelines for the Extended Essay requirement for the IB Diploma program.

I agree to be his/her Subject Area supervisor from March 16, 2018 through

February 15, 2019. I understand that the student will be required to document

his/her time with me. My total time commitment over the course of the process

is approximately 3 -- 6 hours.”)

Supervision Guidance

Each Extended Essay Supervisor has been trained one-on-one by the Extended Essay Coordinator. Each EE Supervisor receives the most up-to-date version of the supervision portions of the EE Courseguide each year.

“The supervisor

The supervisor–student working relationship is probably the most important one in the extended essay process. The supervisor must be a suitably qualified member of staff at the school in which the student is registered. Supervisors are limited to a maximum of three extended essay candidates. The supervisor plays an important role in helping students to plan and undertake their research for the extended essay. The relationship should be an active two-way process with the supervisor primarily there to support and guide the student, during the supervision and reflection sessions, at the planning stage, and when the student is carrying out and writing up their research. This is done through the supervision process, including the three mandatory reflection sessions and the completion of the *Reflections on* *planning and progress form*. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that students are familiar with the requirements of the extended essay.

Supervisors and students must discuss:

• the nature of the extended essay

• their chosen subject, topic and research question

• the most appropriate research methods to be used given the subject for which the student is submitting their essay

• the formal requirements for the completion of the task.

Students should be encouraged to initiate discussions with their supervisor to obtain advice and information and the role of the supervisor should be explained to them so that there is a shared understanding of expectations and responsibilities. Supervisors must ensure that they understand the important role they play in supporting students in this process. However, if a student could not have completed the work without substantial support from their supervisor, this should be reported to the Diploma Programme/extended essay coordinator, who in turn must record the details on the appropriate form. Additionally, if the student has received substantial support from a teacher but has not declared this, then this too must be recorded in the summative comment made by the supervisor on the *Reflections* *on planning and progress form*. If academic misconduct is suspected, supervisors must report this to the Diploma Programme/extended essay coordinator initially.

Supervisors are **required** to:

• undertake three mandatory reflection sessions with each student they are supervising

• sign and date each reflection summarized on the *Reflections on planning and progress form* and provide comments at the end of the process. If the form and essay are submitted via the eCoursework system, then it is deemed signed and authenticated. A blank or unsubmitted RPPF will score a 0 for criterion E.

• provide students with advice and guidance in the skills of undertaking research

• encourage and support students throughout the research and writing of the extended essay

• discuss the choice of topic with each student and, in particular, help to formulate a well-focused research question which is suitable to the subject of registration and ensure that the chosen research question satisfies appropriate legal and ethical standards with regard to health and safety, confidentiality, human rights, animal welfare and environmental issues

• is familiar with the regulations governing the extended essay and the assessment criteria, and gives copies of these to students

• monitor the progress of the extended essay to offer guidance and to ensure that the essay is the student’s own work (this may include presenting a section of the essay for supervisor comment)

• read and comment on one draft only of the extended essay (but do **not** edit the draft); this should take place after the interim reflection session, but before the final reflection session, the *viva voce*

• ensure that the final version of the essay is handed in before the final reflection session (*viva voce*) takes place, and that no changes are made to it subsequently

• read the final version and, in conjunction with the *viva voce*, confirm its authenticity.

The student may work with or consult external experts in a particular area of specialism but it remains the responsibility of the supervisor within the school to complete all the requirements described above. See the section on the role of external mentors.

Supervisors are **strongly** recommended to:

• read recent extended essay reports for the subject

• spend between three and five hours with each student, including the time spent on the three mandatory reflection sessions

• encourage the development of a Researcher’s reflection space for students

• set a clear schedule for the reflection sessions

• ensure that the chosen research question is appropriate for the subject

• advise students on:

• access to appropriate resources (such as people, a library, a laboratory)

• research methods

• how to cite and reference.

**Quick glance: the role of the supervisor**

Do:

* + ensure you feel prepared to undertake the role of the supervisor.
  + help students to arrive at a focused research question which is feasible within the scope of the task, time available, and the student’s ability.
  + speak to your Diploma Programme/extended essay coordinator about more effective cohort-wide provision.
  + emphasize the importance of the reflection sessions as supported by a detailed Researcher’s reflection space.
  + ensure that students are given copies of relevant publications available on the OCC, such as policies, exemplars and subject reports.
  + ensure you are fully familiar with both the assessment requirements of the subject you are supervising as detailed in the relevant chapter of the *Extended essay guide*, as well as the generic requirements. monitor the progress of the students and encourage them to develop skills relevant to their research and writing.
  + comment fully on one draft of the extended essay within the parameters permitted.
  + ensure adequate availability to students for check-in and reflection sessions.

Do not:

* + overlook the role or give it insufficient time
  + use the reflections or check-in sessions to address key skills such as research methodology and referencing

The supervision process

In order for students to be successful in the completion of the extended essay, the process needs to be structured and must incorporate a supervision process of 3–5 recommended hours to include three formal reflection sessions between the student and the supervisor as well as supervision sessions called check-in sessions. The recording of reflections on the *Reflections on planning and progress form* is mandatory and must be submitted with the completed extended essay for assessment under criterion E (engagement). To prepare for these sessions and ensure that they are meaningful and purposeful, the student needs to undertake a number of preparatory steps which are outlined in the following section.

Distinguishing between a supervision session and a reflection session

To support students through the process of undertaking independent research they must be allocated an appropriate supervisor.

Check-in sessions

Students are encouraged to meet with their supervisor in between (and in addition to) the formal reflection sessions. Supervision time should meet the needs of the individual student; therefore, the frequency and duration of these meetings will depend on the needs of the student and the supervisor’s requirements. Supervision time may consist of an occasional 10-minute check-in to discuss a timeline or clarification of a comment made by the supervisor. It may also include a more lengthy discussion about particular issues, for example, regarding access to resources. These supervision sessions do not form part of the formal reflection process and do not, therefore, need to be reported on the *Reflections on planning* *and progress form*. However, they nevertheless form an important part of the supervision process.

Formal reflection sessions

These are the mandatory sessions that must be recorded on the *Reflections on planning and progress form*. It is recommended that these sessions last 20–30 minutes. During these sessions students should share excerpts from their Researcher’s reflection space with their supervisor. These sessions should focus on progress made so far and set clear objectives for moving forward in the research process. Students should be prepared for these sessions and the meetings should be a dialogue guided by questions posed by the supervisor. Examples of these are given in the document *Guiding Student Reflection* which can be found at https://ibpublishing.ibo.org/extendedessay

Supporting the mandatory reflection sessions

There are three mandatory reflection sessions that are a formal part of the extended essay and should be recorded on the *Reflections on planning and progress form*. Following each session, students are required to complete the relevant comment section on the form and submit it to their supervisor. The supervisor must then sign and date the form and after the final reflection session, the *viva voce*, add his/her own comment. For more information on the protocols for completing and submitting the *Reflections on planning and* *progress form* please refer to the section “Protocols on completing and submitting the *Reflections on* *planning and progress form*”. Following the completion of all three sessions, the form will be submitted to the International Baccalaureate along with the completed extended essay. An incomplete form will impact the examiner’s ability to apply assessment criterion E (engagement) and will result in the student receiving a lower mark for this criterion.

Reflection sessions

The following sections provide guidance with regard to preparing for and undertaking the three mandatory reflection sessions.

• Preparation for the first reflection session

• First formal reflection session

• Preparation for the interim reflection session

• The interim reflection session

• Accommodating a change of direction

• Commenting on a draft version of the extended essay

• Submission requirements

• Preparation for the final reflection session (*viva voce*)

• Final reflection session (*viva voce*)

Preparation for the First Reflection Session

As preparation for their first reflection session, students should do the following.

1. Think about subjects and areas of particular personal interest and do some initial background reading into a subject and topic of their choice.

2. Using this as a starting point, explore a variety of possible research topics.

3. Read the subject-specific section of the *Extended essay guide* for the subject they are interested in, paying particular attention to the nature of the subject and the treatment of the topic.

4. Undertake further background reading and begin to gather information around their area of interest. This exploration should give rise to a variety of topics and questions that students can consider for further research. At this stage it is important that students consider the availability of reliable and valid sources for the topic under consideration. All of this should be recorded in their Researcher’s reflection space.

5. Begin developing a research proposal which might include a MindMap® of ideas, an annotated article or preliminary bibliography. Additionally, students must already be thinking in terms of the following questions.

• Is my topic appropriate for the subject I am considering?

• Why am I interested in this area and why is it important?

• What possible questions have emerged from my initial reading?

• Are there any ethical issues that I need to consider?

• What possible methods or approaches might be used for research in this area and why?

It is recommended at this point that the student–supervisor relationship is formalized and the student can consider himself or herself prepared for the first formal reflection session.

First Formal Reflection Session

This initial reflection session should be a dialogue between the student and the supervisor based on the student’s initial explorations. It is recommended that the student sends their supervisor an outline of their research proposal ahead of the meeting in order to give the supervisor the opportunity to review their work. This will ensure that the reflection session is focused and productive. Topics of discussion that should arise during this session include:

• a review of the requirements and assessment criteria for the subject

• a review of ethical and legal implications, if applicable

• a dialogue about possible approaches and any potential problems that might arise

• a discussion of strategies for developing the student’s ideas for the essay and expanding the research so that the essay starts to take form

• probing and challenging questions that will help the student focus their thinking; this should lead to the development of the student’s working research question

• an outline of the next steps that the student should undertake in order to refine their question; this should take the form of a research and writing timeline.

Following this first session, the student is required to complete the first student comment section of the *Reflections on planning and progress form* and submit it to their supervisor who must then sign and date the form. Please refer to the section “Protocols for completing and submitting the *Reflections on planning* *and progress form*” for more information.

Preparation for The Interim Reflection Session

Between the first and second reflection session, students can engage in informal conversations with other people, such as subject teachers, the extended essay coordinator, the librarian or their supervisor. They must also ensure that they are progressing with their research plan.

In preparation for the interim reflection session, students should have:

• attempted to refine a focused and appropriate research question

• significantly deepened their research and recorded pertinent evidence, information or data in the Researcher’s reflection space

• reviewed and consolidated the methodologies they are using

• formulated arguments based on the evidence that they have collected

• added to the working bibliography for their research.

The Interim Reflection Session

This session is a continuation of the dialogue between supervisor and student in which the student must demonstrate the progress they have made in their research. They must also be able to discuss any challenges they have encountered, offer their own potential solutions and seek advice as necessary. During this session the supervisor might discuss:

• a completed piece of sustained writing from the student in order to ensure that they understand the academic writing requirements, including referencing formats

• whether an appropriate range of sources has been accessed and how the student is critically evaluating the origin of those sources

• what the student now has to do in order to produce the full draft of their essay, and ways and means of breaking down the task into manageable steps.

By the end of the interim reflection session both student and supervisor should feel satisfied that there is:

• a clear and refined research question

• a viable argument on which to base the essay

• a sufficient range of appropriate sources

• a clear vision for the final steps in the writing process.

Between the interim session and the completion of the extended essay, students should continue to see their supervisor as appropriate to their needs, although the third and final reflection session should not take place until after the extended essay has been completed and uploaded for submission. Following this interim session, the student is required to complete the second student comment section of the *Reflections on planning and progress form* and submit it to their supervisor who must then sign and date the form. Please refer to the section “Protocols for completing and submitting the *Reflections on* *planning and progress form*” for more information.

Accommodating A Change Of Direction

If the student or supervisor is not satisfied that the goals of the research are being met, further supervision sessions may be appropriate. Students who find that they need to change direction in their research or adjust the formulation of their research question should demonstrate the thinking that led them to these decisions in their second reflection on the *Reflections on planning and progress form*. They must not go back and adjust their initial reflections, as the purpose of the form is to demonstrate the evolution of their thinking in the research process.

Commenting On A Draft Version Of The Extended Essay

Commenting on one completed draft of the essay is a very important aspect of the latter stages in the process, and the last point at which the supervisor sees the essay before it is finally uploaded for submission. It is therefore vital that the level of support given is appropriate—too little support and the ability of the student to meet their potential is compromised; too much help and it will not be the work of an independent learner. The best way of conducting this last stage is for the student to submit the essay prior to a supervision session to allow the supervisor to add their comments. This should be followed by a one-to-one discussion between the supervisor and the student in which they go through the comments together as these become a starting point for a dialogue about the essay. This advice should be in terms of the way the work could be improved, but this first draft must not be heavily annotated or edited by the supervisor.

**What supervisors can do**

Comments can be added that indicate that the essay could be improved. These comments should be open-ended and not involve editing the text, for example:

• **Issue:** the research question is expressed differently in three places (the title page, the introduction and the conclusion).

**Comment:** is your research question consistent through the essay, including on the title page?

• **Issue:** the essay rambles and the argument is not clear.

**Comment:** your essay lacks clarity here. How might you make it clearer?

• **Issue:** the student has made a mistake in their calculations.

**Comment:** check this page carefully.

• **Issue:** the student has left out a section of the essay.

**Comment:** you are missing something here. What is it? Check the essay against the requirements.

• **Issue:** the essay places something in the appendix that should be in the body of the essay.

**Comment:** are you sure this belongs here?

• **Issue:** the conclusion is weak.

**Comment:** what is it that you are trying to say here? Have you included all your relevant findings? Have you looked at unanswered questions?

• **Issue:** the essay has an incomplete citation.

**Comment:** you need to check this page for accuracy of referencing.

**What supervisors cannot do:**

• Correct spelling and punctuation.

• Correct experimental work or mathematics.

• Re-write any of the essay.

• Indicate where whole sections of the essay would be better placed.

• Proofread the essay for errors.

• Correct bibliographies or citations.

If students give their supervisor sections of their extended essay to read, this is permissible but the same section of work should not be looked at repeatedly by the supervisor, nor should it be heavily annotated or edited. Students and supervisors must be clear that only one complete draft of the essay is permitted to be looked at by the supervisor.

Submission Requirements

After commenting on one full draft, the next version of the essay that the supervisor sees must be the final one submitted to them before the *viva voce*. This version of the extended essay must be clean; in other words, it must not contain any comments from the supervisor or any other person. Once this version has been submitted to the supervisor and discussed, students are not permitted to make any further changes to it, unless deemed appropriate by the supervisor because of an administrative error. For this reason, it is important that students are advised to ensure that it meets all formatting and submission requirements before they upload it.

Preparation for The Final Reflection Session *(Viva Voce)*

Supervisors must have already read the final version of the essay, sent to them by the candidate, before this session takes place. Students should bring the following to this session:

• extracts from their RRS that illustrate how they have grown as learners through the process of reflection

• a willingness to share their personal experience and to discuss the skills and development of conceptual understandings that they have acquired through the completion of the extended essay.

It is important to note that students must not be allowed to make any changes to their extended essay after this meeting. Once they have submitted the essay as final to their supervisor, it is the supervisor’s responsibility to ensure that changes are not made. This is particularly important for schools who allow candidate upload of the essay.

Final Reflection Session *(Viva Voce)*

The *viva voce* is a short interview between the student and the supervisor, and is the mandatory conclusion to the extended essay process. Students who do not attend the *viva voce* will be disadvantaged under criterion E (engagement) as the *Reflections on planning and progress form* will be incomplete. The *viva voce* is conducted once the student has uploaded the final version of their extended essay to the IB for assessment. At this point in the process no further changes can be made to the essay. The *viva voce* is a celebration of the completion of the essay and a reflection on what the student has learned from the process.

The *viva voce* is:

• an opportunity to ask the student a variety of open-ended questions to elicit holistic evidence of the student’s learning experience.

• an opportunity for the supervisor to confirm the authenticity of the student’s ideas and sources

• an opportunity to reflect on successes and difficulties encountered in the research process

• an aid to the supervisor’s comments on the *Reflections on planning and progress form*.

The *viva voce* should last 20–30 minutes. This is included in the recommended amount of time a supervisor should spend with the student. In conducting the *viva voce* and writing their comments on the *Reflections on planning and progress form*, supervisors should bear in mind the following:

• The form is an assessed part of the extended essay. The form must include: comments made by the supervisor that are reflective of the discussions undertaken with the student during their supervision/reflection sessions; the student’s comments; and the supervisor’s overall impression of the student’s engagement with the research process.

• An incomplete form resulting from supervisors not holding reflection sessions, or students not attending them, could lead to criterion E (engagement) being compromised.

• In assessing criterion E (engagement), examiners will take into account any information given on the form about unusual intellectual inventiveness. This is especially the case if the student is able to demonstrate what has been learned as a result of this process or the skills developed.

• Examiners want to know that students understand any material (which must be properly referenced) that they have included in their essays. If the way the material is used in context in the essay does not clearly establish this, the supervisor can check the student’s understanding in the *viva voce* and comment on this on the *Reflections on planning and progress form*.

• If there appear to be major shortcomings in citations or referencing, the supervisor should investigate thoroughly. No essay should be authenticated if the supervisor believes the student may be guilty of plagiarism or some other form of academic misconduct.

• The comment made by the supervisor should not attempt to do the examiner’s job. It should refer to things, largely process-related, that may not be obvious in the essay itself.

• Unless there are particular problems, the *viva voce* should begin and end positively. Completion of a major piece of work such as the extended essay is a great achievement for students.

Following this final session, the student is required to complete the last student comment section of the *Reflections on planning and progress form*, sign and date it and submit it to their supervisor, who must then add their own comments, sign and date the form. The supervisor must then upload the form into the ecoursework system, confirm the authenticity of both the form and essay, and submit them to the IB for assessment as one portfolio. Please refer to the section “Protocols for completing and submitting the *Reflections on planning and progress form*” for more information. A blank or unsubmitted RPPF will score a 0 for criterion E.

Authenticating Student Work

All extended essays submitted to the IB for assessment must be authenticated by the student and supervisor, and must not include any known instances of suspected or confirmed academic misconduct. All students and supervisors must confirm the authenticity of the work submitted when uploading work to the e-coursework system. Once a student has uploaded the final version of their extended essay to the e-coursework system for assessment, and confirmed the authenticity of it, it is submitted via the system to their supervisor. At this point the supervisor must not allow any retraction of the essay by the student for modification purposes unless there has been an administrative oversight. The *Reflections on planning and progress form* is given to the supervisor by the student, signed and dated, and it is the responsibility of the supervisor to upload this to the e-coursework system, add their comment and authenticate it before submitting it to the IB with the already uploaded essay as one portfolio. Further guidance on this is given in the section “Protocols for completing and submitting the *Reflections on* *planning and progress form*”. It is extremely important that supervisors are able to confirm that they have followed the guidance for monitoring the student’s work throughout the process and can, to the best of their knowledge, confirm the authenticity of the work upon final submission (please refer to the *Handbook of procedures for the* *Diploma Programme*). If the supervisor is unable to confirm the authenticity of the work this must be brought to the attention of the Diploma Programme coordinator, who in turn should refer to the *Handbook of procedures for the* *Diploma Programme* for guidance. Work that is submitted but does not comply with the expectations and requirements outlined in this publication will be treated as a case of academic misconduct. When authenticity is in doubt, the supervisor should first discuss this with the student. In addition, one or more of the following actions may be helpful:

• compare the style of writing with work known to be that of the student

• compare the final submission with the first draft of the written work

• check the references cited by the student and the original sources

• interview the student in the presence of a third party

• use one of the many websites set up to prevent plagiarism.

It is the responsibility of supervisors to ensure that all students understand the basic meaning and significance of concepts relating to academic honesty, especially authenticity and intellectual property. Supervisors must ensure that all student work to be assessed is prepared according to the stated requirements and must explain clearly to students that the extended essay must be entirely their own work. The same piece of work cannot be submitted to meet the requirements of both the extended essay and a subject-specific assessment component. For further guidance on this issue and the procedures for confirming authenticity please refer to the *General regulations: Diploma Programme*, as well as the *Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme*.

Protocols for Completing and Submitting The *Reflections On Planning And Progress Form*

Completing the *Reflections on planning and progress form* (RPPF) is a requirement for the submission of the extended essay. It plays an important role in the assessment of the final essay and of the student’s engagement with the process of independent research. The following is offered as guidance for the completion and submission of the form. Diploma Programme/extended essay coordinators, with the support of their school leadership team, must determine a system for the administration of the RPPF that ensures that both students and supervisors have access to it in order to complete the required summative comments. This system also needs to ensure the integrity of the form. The following steps are offered as guidance:

An important note:

Once students have written their reflection and this has been signed and dated by their supervisor they must not make changes to these comments. Examiners want to see the progression of ideas through the three reflection comments and if students make amendments at a later stage of the process this will undermine the authenticity of their experiences and affect the way in which examiners apply criterion E.”