

Extended essay: Example commentary			
<b>Subject</b>	English A: language and literature	<b>WSEE theme (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Category for language essays (if applicable):</b>	Category 1	<b>Subjects used for WSEE (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Title of essay:</b>	An exploration of an aspect of the narrative voice in Vladimir Nabokov's <i>Lolita</i>		
<b>Research question:</b>	How far and to what effect does Humbert's narration of the erotic vignettes change over the course of Vladimir Nabokov's <i>Lolita</i> ?		
Assessment details			
Criterion	Mark awarded	Commentary	
A: Focus and method [Maximum possible mark: 6]	6	The topic is communicated accurately and effectively, and the context of the novel established in a crisp and informative introduction and preliminary background chapter. An appropriate academic range of secondary sources has been selected and used to support the candidate's argument.	
B: Knowledge and understanding [Maximum possible mark: 6]	6	Although this could be considered a somewhat "well worn" topic, the candidate's overall knowledge and understanding of the text, and in particular Humbert's narration of events and Nabokov's manipulation of language and reader sympathy, are excellent. Secondary sources and appropriate subject-specific terminology are carefully employed to support the analysis.	
C: Critical thinking [Maximum possible mark: 12]	10	Quotations from both the novel and literary critics are confidently employed to illustrate the points being made and are woven seamlessly into a fluent argument. Chapter divisions are carefully designed to support the progression of the analysis and transitional topic sentences provide coherent links between them.	

D: Presentation [Maximum possible mark: 4]	4	A helpful table of contents focuses the direction of the essay. Apart from one or two incomplete references in the bibliography, the overall presentation of the essay is excellent.
E: Engagement [Maximum possible mark: 6]	4	The first reflection session was perhaps too early, in that the meeting with the supervisor would have been more productive if the candidate had finished reading the novel first. Some discussion of the methodology employed is offered, and the candidate is able to evaluate the unexpected outcome of her research.
Total marks awarded	30/34	