

Extended essay: Example commentary			
Subject	Psychology	WSEE theme (if applicable):	
Category for language essays (if applicable):		Subjects used for WSEE (if applicable):	
Title of essay:	Treatment for Autistic Spectrum Disorders		
Research question:	To what extent is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) a more effective treatment approach for improving communication in preschoolers with Autistic Spectrum Disorders compared to DIR/Floortime?		
Assessment details			
Criterion	Mark awarded	Commentary	
A: Focus and method [Maximum possible mark: 6]	6	The research question and topic are effectively communicated, and care has been taken to limit the field of study. There is an appropriate range of sources. There is a hidden assumption in the research question that ABA is a superior treatment, but the candidate has researched the topic well.	
B: Knowledge and understanding [Maximum possible mark: 6]	6	Knowledge and understanding are excellent. Knowledge of the topic is clear and coherent, and sources are used effectively and with understanding. Appropriate terminology is used very effectively and clearly. Definitions are accurate and well placed.	
C: Critical thinking [Maximum possible mark: 12]	9	An appropriate amount of relevant studies has been analysed and evaluated. Evaluation of the research is partly critical. Conclusions are cautious and supported by the evidence presented.	

D: Presentation [Maximum possible mark: 4]	4	All requirements for presentation are met. The structure and layout support the reading and understanding of the essay.
E: Engagement [Maximum possible mark: 6]	4	Reflections communicate a moderate degree of personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating some intellectual initiative. Reflections on decision-making and planning are analytical.
Total marks awarded	29/34	