

Extended essay: Example commentary			
Subject	Visual arts	WSEE theme (if applicable):	
Category for language essays (if applicable):		Subjects used for WSEE (if applicable):	
Title of essay:	Marina Abramovic and her audience: An investigation into her diverse techniques to connect with her public.		
Research question:	By what means does Marina Abramovic relate to her audience?		
Assessment details			
Criterion	Mark awarded	Commentary	
A: Focus and method [Maximum possible mark: 6]	4	A best-fit approach has to be used here. The topic and the research question are clearly stated, appropriate to the subject, and the discussion in the essay is connected to the research question (markband 5-6). The reasons why the candidate has chosen to investigate this topic are not explained. An appropriate range of relevant sources have been applied in relation to the research question but there is no evidence of an informed selection of sources or methods. The candidate has not explained, for example, why these performances in particular have been selected for discussion. This brings the mark to the top of the 3-4 markband.	
B: Knowledge and understanding [Maximum possible mark: 6]	6	Excellent attempt to define the transition of meaning from performer to audience. Sources are applied effectively and with understanding. The language demonstrates considerable empathy and knowledge of the subject.	
C: Critical thinking	11	Creates a useful context for the analysis of Abramovic's cultural persona, her performance and relationship to	

<p>[Maximum possible mark: 12]</p>		<p>the audience. The argument is directed towards a summative conclusion concerning the intentions of Abramovic's performance. The application of the research question is consistently relevant. The research has not been critically evaluated. The student, for example, could have referred to the limitations of not being able to see in person the performances and reflect on how this can affect his own perception of the relation between the artist and himself as part of the audience. Screen grabs are appropriate but inevitably unrevealing of the intensity of the performance and this limitation could have been acknowledged.</p>
<p>D: Presentation [Maximum possible mark: 4]</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Presentation is good. The structure and layout support the reading, understanding and evaluation of the essay. Some sources of images are missing and there are some errors in the table of images.</p>
<p>E: Engagement [Maximum possible mark: 6]</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Engagement is good, but not excellent. Reflections are analytical and include reference to conceptual understanding. These reflections communicate a moderate degree of personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating some intellectual initiative.</p>
<p>Total marks awarded</p>	<p>28/34</p>	