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# EE/RPPF

For use from May/November 2018

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Candidate personal code:

## Extended essay - Reflections on planning and progress form

**Candidate:** This form is to be completed by the candidate during the course and completion of their EE. This document records reflections on your planning and progress, and the nature of your discussions with your supervisor. You must undertake three formal reflection sessions with your supervisor: The first formal reflection session should focus on your initial ideas and how you plan to undertake your research; the interim reflection session is once a significant amount of your research has been completed, and the final session will be in the form of a viva voce once you have completed and handed in your EE. This document acts as a record in supporting the authenticity of your work. The three reflections combined must amount to no more than 500 words.

**The completion of this form is a mandatory requirement of the EE for first assessment May 2018. It must be submitted together with the completed EE for assessment under Criterion E.**

**Supervisor:** You must have three reflection sessions with each candidate, one early on in the process, an interim meeting and then the final viva voce. Other check-in sessions are permitted but do not need to be recorded on this sheet. After each reflection session candidates must record their reflections and as the supervisor you must sign and date this form.

### First reflection session

Candidate comments:

My initial idea for my extended essay was to focus on an aspect of poverty, linking to both Geography and Economics. I wasn't sure how to approach this subject as it is very broad which I discovered by reading 'The End of Poverty' by Jeffrey Sachs. However, after a meeting with my supervisor we narrowed my ideas down to focussing on a particular countries economy, such as India or China. My idea then was to compare the wealth distribution in India, by contrasting a slum to a wealthy area of the country. To gain more knowledge around this area I read 'Behind the Beautiful Forevers' by Katherine Boo. The book provided me with some insightful background knowledge into what life is like in slums, but due to the narrative tone to the book I will need to do some further reading in order to gain some more factual information surrounding India's Economy. I now plan to do some research based on particular slums in India and causes of the large wealth distribution.

Date:

Supervisor initials:



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**Interim reflection**

Candidate comments:

In my second formal meeting with my supervisor, we discussed the progress of my extended essay and I received feedback on the areas that needed the most improvement. On the first draft it was clear that I had focused too much on the description of the theories as opposed to the analysis and thus I need to go away and improve the evaluation within this section. In order to improve my essay further I need to focus on answering the research question throughout the essay and tying up all my ideas within the conclusion, in order to come to a final judgement. I struggled to find data to include in the analysis section and thus it is necessary for me to go away and search for further data. I will need to change the conversion of currency from using exchange rates to using PPP as this accounts for the cost of living.

Date:

Supervisor initials:

**Final reflection - Viva voce**

Candidate comments:

Originally, I expected the majority of households living in Dharavi to be in absolute poverty, however, after conducting a vast amount research and analysis I found that the main issue in India is the widening wealth distribution causing relative poverty rather than absolute poverty. I also discovered that whilst Jeffrey Sachs model had a universal application it did not account for factors unique to India such as the caste system and economic liberalisation. I found working out the PPP conversion to analyse household income proved hugely effective in displaying the types of poverty present in Dharavi. I would like to gather more data on Dharavi to further support the conclusions I have drawn in order to improve my essay. If I had of conducted research into other slums in India as well as Dharavi, it may have allowed me to discover any regional differences and the polarisation of wealth in India. I learnt that the triangulation of conclusions drawn from the evidence proved useful in determining the effectiveness of Jeffrey Sachs' poverty trap.

Date:

Supervisor initials:

## Supervisor comments:

**Supervisor:** By submitting this candidate work for assessment, you are taking responsibility for its authenticity. No piece of candidate work should be uploaded/submitted to the e-Coursework system if its authenticity is in doubt or if contradictory comments are added to this form. If your text in the box below raises any doubt on the authenticity of the work, this component will not be assessed.

has been an exceptional EE supervisee. From our first meeting, it was clear that he had a strong personal motivation to explore his chosen topic. He came to me having already undertaken a considerable amount of wider reading (one of the reasons his bibliography is so extensive) and with a formed research question. Given this, it would have been easy to hold a fixed mentality on how he wished to conduct the investigation but has proven incredibly open-minded throughout his enquiry, displaying flexibility in his thinking and his approach. This has included an appreciation for the multidisciplinary approach required for a World Studies EE; has been adept at linking the theories and concepts of Economics and Geography. He has been able to explain the geographical aspects of these to me, as a non-specialist, with precision. I was also delighted to hear from his Geography teacher that has brought ideas gleaned in the EE investigation into his Geography lessons. Following discussion, he adapted his research question to add focus and to open up a more analytical approach, which he mentions in his reflections. has reacted to feedback to assimilate information and recommendations very maturely and with a clarity of purpose. He edited the structure of his essay following the second supervisor meeting and rewrote large sections of his work to deepen his analysis and avoid being too descriptive with the copious volumes of information and sources he had gathered. His ability to independently generate his own calculations, processing secondary data, was impressive as was his insightful motivation for doing this. For example, he spotted for himself the weaknesses in his first method and switched to using PPP data for currency conversion. In the final supervisor meeting, gave a first-rate viva voce. His exposition of the analysis in his research was exemplary. I have heard no other IB student speak with such authority, clarity and critical awareness in my previous experience of supervising the extended essay. It was also evident that has clearly understood the principles of research with social and human sciences. He spoke of how he had aimed to triangulate his findings to reach strong conclusions, in the realisation that his question and methodology were qualitative in nature rather than purely quantitative. He evaluated the limitations of his work and the evidence he had been able to gather, probably more articulately in the viva than in his writing. He also demonstrated perceptive awareness of how further cycles of research could be taken in order to strengthen conclusion and deepen the exploration of living standards in the slums of India. Overall, an excellent piece of independent work from a student that has been so impressive in the process of learning that the EE has entailed.

