

| Extended essay: Example commentary | | | |
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| Subject | English B | WSEE theme (if applicable): | |
| Category for language essays (if applicable): | Category 3 | Subjects used for WSEE (if applicable): | |
| Title of essay: | George Orwell: The Political Ideologies and Social Criticism in His Literary Works | | |
| Research question: | To what extent do George Orwell's novels and essays reflect his personal views? | | |
| Assessment details | | | |
| Criterion | Mark awarded | Commentary | |
| A: Focus and method [Maximum possible mark: 6] | 5 | At first reading, the research question, though appropriate, seems very broad. However, the introduction effectively explains purpose and focus, and limits the scope clearly. An appropriate and wide range of relevant sources has been selected and the methodology is clear. | |
| B: Knowledge and understanding [Maximum possible mark: 6] | 6 | The application of source materials is clearly relevant and appropriate to the research question. Knowledge of issues is clear and coherent—sources, both novels and secondary sources, are used with understanding. Subject-specific terminology is accurate and consistent. Though the use of language is not a major consideration in English B, it is remarkably accurate and sophisticated for a second-language essay. | |
| C: Critical thinking [Maximum possible mark: 12] | 11 | Research is excellent, it is relevant and supports the argument consistently. Analysis is excellent, detailed and focused on the research question. The argument is reasoned, supported conclusively by the evidence presented. References and quotations are appropriate and convincing. The conclusion sums up the whole development of the essay. | |

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| <p>D: Presentation</p> <p>[Maximum possible mark: 4]</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>Presentation is very good. Structure is clearly appropriate, layout is correct.</p> |
| <p>E: Engagement</p> <p>[Maximum possible mark: 6]</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>Engagement is very good. Reflections on decision-making and planning are evaluative, as shown in the choice of materials and design of the outline. The capacity to respond effectively to challenges is shown in solving the problem regarding the lack of background knowledge and finding supporting evidence.</p> <p>The reflections show intellectual engagement and authenticity, some initiative, and very real personal satisfaction with the finished essay.</p> |
| <p>Total marks awarded</p> | <p>31/34</p> | <p>This is a good grade A essay, that fits the grade A descriptors fully. It demonstrates effective research skill; the research question is focused and appropriate; knowledge and understanding of the topic in the wider context of English is clear. In addition, source material is applied to support the argument convincingly, evidence is supplied, and the presentation is good.</p> <p>Finally, the engagement is conceptual and personal, the reflections indicating a mature, logical approach to the whole process.</p> |