



Extended Essay Group 2 Language Acquisition

Student Training
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OVERVIEW

- Essay is written in the foreign language and focused on matters related that foreign language
- Students develop their awareness and knowledge of the language studied and their understanding of the culture concerned.
- Students pursue their interest based on research of texts or cultural artifacts

CHOICE OF TOPIC

- Consists of study of an issue in 1 of 3 categories or a combination of them
 - Language
 - Culture and society (a or b)
 - Literature
- Worthy of investigation (not too trivial or broad)
- Allows for effective treatment within the word limit
- Provides opportunity to develop an argument, demonstrate critical analysis and personal judgment rather than just knowledge (no summaries)

Emphasis: this is a research essay
and the assessment criteria
emphasize the importance of
research skills rather than linguistic
proficiency.

*“In fact, students who are fluent in the language
but who do not demonstrate the required
research skills will definitely achieve a lower
mark than students who are less fluent but who
fulfill the other assessment criteria.”*

CATEGORY I: LANGUAGE

Specific analysis of the language (its use, structure, and so on) normally related to its cultural context or a specific text

- **French: Language Laws in Quebec**
 - To what extent has Bill 101 contributed to increasing the prevalence of the French language in Quebec?
- **Japanese: Foreign Words in Japanese**
 - Do young Japanese people use more words of foreign origin than older people?
- **Spanish: Alternative Use of the Forms Vos and Usted in the Spanish of the Río de la Plata region**
 - To what extent have differences between formal and informal usage disappeared from the language used in the Río de la Plata region?

CATEGORY 2a: CULTURE & SOCIETY

Essays of a **sociocultural** nature with an impact on the language

- French: Language and Feminism
 - Should feminine forms of more job titles be created in French to reflect shifting gender roles?
- Japanese: Language for Family Members
 - Does Japanese need new words to describe non-traditional family relationships as society changes?
- Spanish: Language and Discrimination
 - To what extent does the language used by groups of students from a secondary school in Buenos Aires reflect racial discrimination?

CATEGORY 2b: CULTURE & SOCIETY

Essays of a more general cultural nature but specific to a country or a community where the language is spoken

- **French: Social Criticism in the Songs of MC Solaar**
 - What is the nature of MC Solaar's rap critique of modern French society?
- **Japanese: Adverts in the Japanese Media**
 - How and why do Japanese advertisers use such a high proportion of non-Japanese models in advertising?
- **Spanish: Representation of Women in tango**
 - Which roles do women play in tango lyrics?

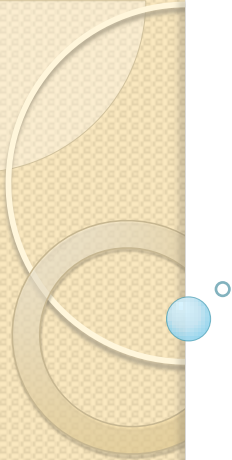
CATEGORY 3: LITERATURE

A specific analysis of a literary type, based on a specific work or works of literature exclusively from the foreign language.

- All texts must have originally been written in the foreign language.
- French: Haitian Politics as Depicted in Works by Dany Laferrière and Gary Victor
 - Does Dany Laferrière in *Pays Sans Chapeau* share the same point of view on Haitian politics as Gary Victor in *La Piste des sortilèges*?
- Spanish: Fictionalization of History in Abel Posse's Novels
 - How does Abel Posse construct an imaginary history in his novel *El Largo Atardecer del Caminante*?

TREATMENT OF THE TOPIC

- Students should demonstrate an understanding of the issues raised by the research question and offer an objective, balanced analysis of the issues.
- In the case of an essay of a general culture nature, student should focus on what makes the topic specific and unique to the country/countries studied
- If photographs and/or illustrations are used, they should be labeled, explained and justified in the context of the topic.
- Students may analyze texts in a detailed literary fashion, or they may use literary texts as a means of exploring the foreign language or its culture and society.



Keep in mind when writing your EE in another language...

**EVERYTHING IS WRITTEN IN THAT
LANGUAGE FROM THE OUTSET**

- Research Question
- Outline
- Research
- The essay itself...obviously!

**IT IS FAR TOO MUCH WORK TO WRITE
AND THEN TRANSLATE!**

Who should consider writing a Group 2 EE?

- You are an HL student with a good grade in your language class.
- You are an SL student with an “A” average
- You are a **risk-taker** and not intimidated to do research in the language
- Permission from your language teacher is required before you make a proposal.
- Consider some feasible topics and then approach your teacher.