

**Extended Essay: Exemplar Commentary**

Subject	Visual Arts	If applicable, theme for WSEE	
If applicable, category for language essays		If applicable, subjects used for WSEE	
Title of essay	The Depiction of Women in the Paintings of Joaquin Sorolla and Marc Chagall Research Question: To what extent does the culture and emotional background of Chagall and Sorolla impact their depiction of women?		
Essay number		Examination session	

**Assessment of extended essay**

Criteria	Mark awarded	Commentary
A: Focus and method [6]	2	Although the research question itself is sufficiently focused and its intent is understandable, it has not been clearly expressed. Identification and explanation of the topic is limited and the purpose and focus of the research is unclear. Given the research topic, sources and methods are limited, as is evidence that their selection has been informed.
B: Knowledge and understanding [6]	2	Although early in the essay there are a few appropriate quotes from art scholars, these are mentioned in passing and not used effectively. In several instances, subject-specific terminology and concepts are inaccurate, demonstrating a rather basic knowledge and understanding. The candidate uses “dyed” as a synonym for “painted” and the term <i>Giclée</i> (a digital-printing technique), is completely inappropriate for the context in which it is used.
C: Critical thinking [12]	2	The application of the research presented is limited and its relevance to the research question is not clear. The student survey referred to in the essay does not appreciably further the discussion. Some of the analysis of the two works under discussion is good - especially the point about the relationship between the man and woman in the Marc Chagall painting - but in several sections is limited and not based on evidence. There are

		a few valid points made in the argument, but much of it is unstructured, insufficiently focused on the research question and based on limited evidence.
D: Presentation [4]	1	<p>The formal presentation is barely acceptable. The essay layout is sufficiently well organized, but several elements are either weak or only partially in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bibliography lists “Google Search” as a source (no less than three times)</li> <li>• The sources for images are not clearly provided</li> <li>• Only a few of the quotes are referenced.</li> <li>• Proper names frequently begin with a lower-case letter</li> </ul> <p><b>Under the new requirements this essay must be referred as a possible case of academic misconduct due to incorrect and inconsistent citing and referencing.</b></p>
E: Engagement [6] (not included)	3	Clearly some personal engagement with the topic area and some insights into the decision-making process. However, these do not move beyond general observations about decisions made and the impact of these on the research.
Total marks awarded	10/34	While the essay topic itself is interesting and some attempt is made at providing structure to the analysis and argument, much of what is presented appears to be based on the candidate’s feelings and (limited) knowledge of the subject, rather than applying critical analysis to appropriate research. As the conclusion makes all too clear, the candidate’s knowledge and understanding of modern art is rather basic.