

Sample **Viva Voce** Guiding Questions asked to Student

1. What conclusions did you arrive at during the research and writing of your EE? Were there any surprises?
2. What would you consider to be the most, and least, rewarding aspect of your research and writing process?
3. What figures or illustrations did you include? Why did you choose those?
4. Which source contradicted the general ideas of your research? In what way specifically did the source contradict them? Did you include it? Why? Why not?
5. Which of your sources did you find to be the most helpful? Why?
6. Note, you may be asked to explain a source's use, such as why they were used and their relevance.
7. What have you learned about your topic from researching and writing the EE?
8. What challenges did you encounter when researching and writing the EE? How did you go about overcoming them?
9. What unanswered question are you left with?
10. How successful do you believe you've been with regards to answering your RQ?
11. Is there anything that contributed to the EE that is not immediately evident in the essay itself (such as museum visits and email exchanges with participants, scientists and authors).

FYI to Student: Format

Viva Voce sessions typically last 15 to 20 minutes. Getting the most out of your reflection.

1. How effective were your choices?
 - a. In what way(s) did your chosen methodology produce a definite answer to your RQ?
 - b. In what way(s) did your personal reading shed any new light on the text or challenge, or confirm pre-existing schools of thought?
 - c. In what way(s) did your choice of source material lead to a comprehensive assessment of (most) all factors?
 - d. Was your choice of sources consistently relevant to your RQ? What implication did that have on your conclusion (e.g., "it produced a more sharply focused conclusion")?
 - e. To what extent did your research material (or approach) utilize the latest research in the field, making it up to date?
 - f. In what way(s) did your research highlight any undocumented or new thoughts on the topic in the question?
 - g. In what way(s) did your research highlight any undocumented or new thoughts on the topic questions?
 - h. To what extent could your approach be seen as yielding reliable (and/or valid) results?
2. What changes were necessary during the research process?
 - a. Did your research bring to light any material or data that forced you to rethink your approach or adjust your RQ accordingly?
 - b. Did your methodological approach or choice of sources consistently yield the required results or were changes/additions required?
 - c. In what way(s) did your Extended Essay compel you to seek out new modes of note taking or overall organization (e.g., time management)?
 - d. To what extent did you include a wide variety of source material (that is, not just internet sources)?
 - e. Did your argument require a greater balance of opinion that forced you to do wider reading or additional primary research?
 - f. Why did you switch from primary to secondary research approach (or vice versa)?
3. What were the greatest achievements and challenges during your research process?
 - a. Did your research require you to acquire more technical skills or adapt your technical proficiencies so as to conduct your research properly (for example, learning how to use specific lab or technological equipment or how to devise subject appropriate surveys)?
 - b. Was there a lack of sufficient source material to begin with when it came to your topic? How did you overcome this?
 - c. In what way(s) has your research findings added to the existing body of knowledge around your chosen topic?
 - d. Did you make any significant breakthroughs with regards to the topic in the question?
 - e. Were you able to devise any original approaches to respond to your RQ?
 - f. In what ways(s) was your conclusion a comprehensive response?
 - g. In what way(s) could your chosen topic or approach be deemed a change to research or pursue (for example, deals with complex mathematics, concerns itself with an obscure aspect of history or attempts a new reading of a well-known text)?

h. Did you acquire any new skills that you have found use for in other areas of your studies?