

NORWEGIAN A1

Overall grade boundaries

Grade:	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range:	0 - 7	8 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 28	29 - 36

The range and suitability of the work submitted

The topics chosen for extended essays in Norwegian A1 varied. The overall impression this year is that the better essays were those where the candidates had chosen new and interesting works by new authors. Although this approach may mean limited sources, it certainly stimulates fresh and original thinking. Some schools seem to stick to the opposite approach and let the candidates base their essays on the same established author (and often the same novel) year after year. This is not a recommendable practice. Weaker candidates often resort to simply describing the content of the novel. What is noteworthy is that an increasing number of candidates in recent sessions have chosen to base their essays on poetry. Some of the stronger essays this session were based on poets and their poetry. It must be noted that if a candidate has chosen a Category 2 essay, then at least one literary work studied must have been originally written in Norwegian.

Candidate performance against criteria

Comments are only made on selected criteria.

Criterion A: research question

The research question is the most important aspect of the essay, as it guides the student and helps maintain focus. For an essay to be successful, it is essential that the requirements of this criterion be fulfilled. Many research questions are too vague or too broadly expressed. It is an essential part of the supervisor's role to guide the candidates here in understanding the importance of refining their research question. Candidates should ensure that the question is integrated in their introduction.

Criterion C: investigation

It is worth mentioning that if well-known sources of well-known texts have been used, candidates should be encouraged to challenge statements by critics. Internet sources must of course be handled sensibly.

Criterion I: formal presentation

It is deemed unacceptable to omit a bibliography, and candidates should be made aware of this in their overall familiarization with the formal requirements of the essay. Essays without bibliography will automatically score 0 on this criterion.

Recommendations for supervision of future candidates

Candidates should be encouraged to put a lot of thought and care into formulating their research questions. Candidates can be encouraged to be open to works by young and not so established authors. Supervisors must ensure that the candidate has access to the assessment criteria, so that such issues as the omission of a bibliography can be avoided.s