

Norwegian B

General Criterion

Range and suitability of work submitted

Usually there is a great variety in the topics chosen by the candidates. They show creativity in their choice, and some of the essays are quite interesting to read. Some candidates choose literary essays, and they tend to perform very well. Other candidates focus on aspects of society or their peers (for instance the situation of an immigrant group in the Norwegian society or 'russefeiring'). These candidates, as a general rule, can focus even sharper in order for the research question to be effectively treated within the essay. That is, the suitability of the topics may be good, but a few of the topics can be narrowed down quite a bit.

The candidates generally show control with the «main body» of their essay, i.e. they have a research question, a 'main body' including an analysis/evaluation (or attempt at it), they have a conclusion or an attempt at some conclusion. The literary essays, though, prove to be more precise and clear concerning both the data and the argumentation part. They generally render a good holistic impression. The others are again, generally speaking, fairly good, but it is important to narrow down the research question in order to make the EE manageable. To keep the clear line of thought in the essay from the beginning to the end, starting with the research question and ending with the conclusion, is of course always a difficult part. Many of the candidates manage this fine, though.

Candidate performance against the criteria

General assessment criteria

Some research questions can be narrowed down even further (a few quite a lot). Criterion B, approach to the research question, is generally satisfactory. The candidates choosing literary themes can substantiate their investigation with even more quotations/examples. The other candidates can choose, as mentioned above, a more focused and detailed collection of information/data allowing for an even more convincing, analytic and argumentative part (criteria C and D). The research question of course must invite such a focused and narrowed down investigation. So, the approach, the collecting of information/data and the argumentative part are generally quite good in some of the essays, but can be better in others. In a few of the essays the abstract (criterion F) functions much as an introduction, which is not the objective of the abstract.

Subject assessment criteria Group 2:

The candidates have as their topic for the essay a specific cultural or literary issue concerning the language. In this matter there are obviously few problems, and most candidates generally show very good to adequate knowledge and understanding of the language and culture/literature. Some also show inventiveness and enthusiasm. What is the weaker aspect in a few of the essays will be apparent in criterion K as well; the coherent point of view can be clearer and more persuasive as commented above. The candidates are generally able to apply an appropriate language register and terminology. They also generally communicate very well (Criterion L).

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates:

The literary essays tend to be good. In order to score even higher, the candidate can give more specific examples and quote more. This of course leaves less space for other aspects and demands even more focus. A few of the other candidates tend to want to do "a lot" in their essay, and the clear,

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stringent line of thought in the essay may thus be missing. The teachers could perhaps help by encouraging the candidates to focus very sharply (research question) and go in depth in this focus, and not to 'float' too much about. The successful extended essay often shows a small-scaled, personal research where the data may be examples/quotations from texts or investigations such as interviews or the gathering of quite specific materials from a certain source. The successful extended essay presents this investigation in a clear line of thought. I can only encourage teachers to continue guiding their candidates along these lines, in this way allowing the knowledge in the field, and the analytical skills and the coherent point of view of the candidates to come forward.