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# EE/RPPF

For use from May/November 2018

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Candidate personal code:

## Extended essay - Reflections on planning and progress form

**Candidate:** This form is to be completed by the candidate during the course and completion of their EE. This document records reflections on your planning and progress, and the nature of your discussions with your supervisor. You must undertake three formal reflection sessions with your supervisor: The first formal reflection session should focus on your initial ideas and how you plan to undertake your research; the interim reflection session is once a significant amount of your research has been completed, and the final session will be in the form of a viva voce once you have completed and handed in your EE. This document acts as a record in supporting the authenticity of your work. The three reflections combined must amount to no more than 500 words.

**The completion of this form is a mandatory requirement of the EE for first assessment May 2018. It must be submitted together with the completed EE for assessment under Criterion E.**

**Supervisor:** You must have three reflection sessions with each candidate, one early on in the process, an interim meeting and then the final viva voce. Other check-in sessions are permitted but do not need to be recorded on this sheet. After each reflection session candidates must record their reflections and as the supervisor you must sign and date this form.

### First reflection session

Candidate comments:

When I heard about the Extended Essay, I started researching about topics that I was interested in. I knew that I wanted to do my EE on history. I narrowed down my topics to two that I was the most interested about: Battle of Stalingrad and Soviet Russia. After further research, I decided that Stalingrad was the better option and I decided to do my EE on it. After I had started reading the book Stalingrad by Antony Beevor and watched a documentary on the battle, I got interested in the mistakes that Germany made. Therefore my provisional question was "To what extent did German tactical mistakes affect the outcome of the Battle of Stalingrad?" The biggest difficulty that I have had was coming up with a question that was specific enough. Some of my questions were too broad. For example, my first question was; "To what extent did German tactical mistakes affect the outcome of the Battle of Stalingrad and ultimately contribute to the Allied victory in World War II?"

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**Interim reflection**

Candidate comments:

I have been revising my research question, deepening and tweaking the focus of my research. My research question is "Did poor military leadership lead to the German defeat at the Battle of Stalingrad in 1942-1943?" I began researching what the tactical mistakes were and how these mistakes affected the Battle of Stalingrad. However, after talking with my supervisor, I changed the focus of my research not just on the strategic mistakes, but also on whose fault (Generals, Hitler etc.) these mistakes were. I also decided to research other reasons why Germany lost the war like strong Russian defense and the Russians being able to surround the Sixth-Army. The biggest problem with my research has been finding sources like "When Titans Clashed by David Glantz" that don't just talk about the tactical mistakes, but also analyse who is to blame for these mistakes. By researching other reasons why Germany lost the war, I gained new knowledge about my subject which will help me to have balanced and detailed argument.

Date:

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**Final reflection - Viva voce**

Candidate comments:

I came to the conclusion that Germany made serious mistakes in their planning and strategies that caused their defeat in the war, even though they had one of the strongest militaries. An effective strategy for my research was that I read books with different views; from the Russian point of view like "World War II" by Ivor Matanle, and from the German point of view like "Hitler's War in the East" by Müller Rolf-Dieter. This helped me to gain knowledge and to come up with a balanced argument. To improve my EE, I could have filtered sources of extreme bias, managed my time better and I could have used more primary sources from Russian or German origin. The skills that I developed are time management, developing a detailed and balanced argument that's supported by evidence and I also learned how to write an essay that was much longer and more time consuming than any other essay that I have written before.

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Supervisor comments:

**Supervisor:** By submitting this candidate work for assessment, you are taking responsibility for its authenticity. No piece of candidate work should be uploaded/submitted to the e-Coursework system if its authenticity is in doubt or if contradictory comments are added to this form. If your text in the box below raises any doubt on the authenticity of the work, this component will not be assessed.

The student started out with what seemed a perfectly good question - how Germany lost the war in Russia. This is a popular subject for German students like him. Focusing on military decisions he quickly realized how difficult that question was to unpick and began to focus in on finding the key factors from the many. This allowed him to take a more balanced approach and allowed him to evaluate the relative contributions of military decisions, Russian tactics and snow (among others). The student worked steadily on this essay and was open to suggestions and advice.



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