

Extended essay: Example commentary			
Subject	History	WSEE theme (if applicable):	
Category for language essays (if applicable):		Subjects used for WSEE (if applicable):	
Title of essay:	Colonial policy, ethnic conflict and Nigeria—a study of how colonial Britain's policy of divide-and-rule caused the Biafran War.		
Research question:	To what extent did the British colonial policy of indirect rule in Nigeria cause the Biafran War 1967–70?		
Assessment details			
Criterion	Mark awarded	Commentary	
A: Focus and method [Maximum possible mark: 6]	6	Identification and explanation of the research topic is effectively communicated. There is a clear and consistently focused research question. The methodology is outlined and an appropriate level of sources, both primary and secondary, have been consulted.	
B: Knowledge and understanding [Maximum possible mark: 6]	6	The student's knowledge and understanding are obvious, and the selection of source materials is clearly relevant. Information has been extracted and deployed in a relevant manner for the task. Use of subject-specific terminology is good, accurate and consistent.	
C: Critical thinking [Maximum possible mark: 12]	11	A very good level of research and analysis, and attempts at source evaluation place this essay at the top of the markband. The argumentation is reasoned and remains focused and coherent throughout. The conclusion is consistent with the development of the argument and is expressed in an articulate manner.	
D: Presentation [Maximum possible mark: 4]	4	The essay is well presented in visual terms and conforms with the requirements for the subject. Structure and layout support the reading, understanding and evaluation of the essay.	
E: Engagement [Maximum possible mark: 6]	4	There is evidence of good engagement by the student. Conceptual understanding and skill development could have been more prevalent in this section, but there was enough to justify it being placed at the top of this markband.	
Total marks awarded	31/34		