

## 10 tips for schools & teachers for the higher-level essay

1.	The line of inquiry is essential: it should be a suitable topic for investigating in an essay of this length. Given that it frames the analytical focus for the whole essay, a poorly expressed, absent or vague line of inquiry will negatively affect achievement in Criteria A, B and C.
2.	Discussion between the student and teacher in the early planning stages should help to ensure that the line of inquiry is suitable and that the analytical focus is appropriate.
3.	Using one of the seven concepts that underpin the course is a valid and meaningful way of generating a suitable line of inquiry, although of course this is not the only way to come up with an appropriate topic.
4.	A word count must be included on the essay. Examiners will not read more than the maximum 1500 words permitted.
5.	A bibliography or works cited should be included and properly formatted. This lets examiners see, for example, which translation or edition has been used or provide them with pertinent information about the use of online sources. Hyperlinks are not accessible to examiners. It is useful to include necessary original text(s) as an appendix. The presence of many secondary sources may suggest not enough focus on the primary text.
6.	Students should choose works of sufficient length and complexity for their essay.
7.	When the essay is based on a text from a larger work or body of work, it must be explained how the text connects to the work or body of work as a whole.
8.	When quoting from texts, students must remember to integrate these quotations as seamlessly as possible into the structure of their sentences and paragraphs. When possible, students should be encouraged to embed illustrative examples from graphic/non-literary texts in the main body. This is more effective than including them in an appendix and will likely reduce the need for students to describe them extensively in their essays, leaving more words for interpretation, analysis and evaluation.
9.	Although there will be moments when students need to describe what is happening in a text, they need to be aware that critical engagement and analytical insight are required in this assessment.
10.	Language needs to be checked carefully. Careless errors do not sit well in this assessment. This is a formal piece of writing and adherence to academic conventions is expected.