Students’ Guide to the EE Concluding Interview (Viva Voce)

The *viva voce* is a short interview between the student and the supervisor to conclude the extended essay process. The *viva voce* serves the following purposes.

- A check on plagiarism and malpractice in general
- An opportunity to reflect on successes and difficulties in the research process
- An opportunity to reflect on what has been learned
- An aid to the supervisor’s report

The *viva voce* should last between 10 and 15 minutes. The following are examples of questions that can be asked.

- “I am not clear what you mean on page X. You quote Y: could you explain a little more about what this tells us?”
- “On page X you cite Z. I couldn’t find this reference (for example, website). Could you tell me more about it?”
- “What were some of the most rewarding parts of this process? What were some of the most challenging?”
- “What were the most interesting aspects of the process? Did you discover anything that surprised you?”
- “Were there any unresolved issues following your research? Any questions you could not find good answers to?”
- “How did the focus of your research change over the course of your research?”
- “Is there anything else that you would particularly like me to mention in my report?”

Students should bear in mind the following.

- Examiners want to know that students understand any material (which must be properly referenced) that they have included in their essays. The *viva voce* will help confirm this.
- Minor slips in citation and referencing may lose the odd mark. If there appear to be major shortcomings, the supervisor should investigate thoroughly. **No essay will be authenticated if the supervisor believes it contains plagiarism.**
- In assessing criterion K (holistic judgment), examiners will take into account any information given in the report about unusual intellectual inventiveness or persistence in the face of unexpected difficulties.
- Preparing appropriately for the concluding interview can significantly benefit the student by giving the supervisor something positive to write about.