

### Initial Guidance for Extended Essay in Economics

An extended essay is a daunting task in any subject area. It is good to think that an EE is written not to describe something but rather to solve a problem or to provide an answer to an interesting problem. At least, it should attempt an answer. It is this search for an answer that makes the essay an interesting endeavor for you. Otherwise, the exercise is just dull and boring.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you consider doing your EE in economics:

- ✓ Essays should not be historical.
- ✓ Select a topic related to your own reality: your town, your mom's work, for example
- ✓ Narrow your topic to a reasonable size: local, not national
  - Use: How does DVD piracy affect competition between local shops in Jinqiao?
  - Not: What are the effects of DVD piracy on the Chinese economy?
- ✓ Make sure to have the necessary sources available
  - You must use data you have collected yourself [primary and secondary data]
- ✓ Possess a firm command of the relevant economic theory
- ✓ Pose your question in the form of a hypothesis, not a description
  - Use: Does the introduction of technology into the leather industry in Dharavi worsen unemployment and economic conditions in the surrounding slum areas?
  - Not: What is the impact of technology on the leather industry in Dharavi, India?

Here are some examples from past EEs, the IB forum and guides:

#### Examples of **Inappropriate** EEs

Topic	Reason
Introducing economic systems to a country: Which one is the most efficient?	Too general and vague discussion on the three main economics questions (what, how, and for whom), no case study
The problem of the development of Namibia's economy since its independence and their remaining economical dependence on South Africa	No research question. Purely descriptive and much closer to history than to economics. No application of economic theory.
Fluctuant Markets: An analysis of Asian economies pre/post 1997/98 financial crisis and before the advent of the SARS epidemic disease.	Too vast a topic for an EE. No consistent research question or hypothesis.
The effect of the Rockefeller brothers international predominance in the world economy on their effect in the United States economy (sic)	Absolute absence of economic theory. Just an account of the rise of Rockefeller in American society.
OPEC's shifting role in US supply of oil	No research question. No economic application.

#### Far **Too Broad** Topics

Topic
Negative externalities in the UK: An analysis of Britain's policy on taxing and otherwise dealing with negative externalities
To what extent Cuba's economy is a transitional economy?
Assess the impact of the rising cost of health care on the economy of the United States of America
What impact does the shadow economy have on Bulgaria's economy?
To what extent did the year 2005 show the limitation of Ethiopia's economic development?
Researching on whether the recent immigrant influx in Spain has had a positive effect on the Spanish economy
What effect the introduction of the Euro had on consumer prices in Spain?

#### **Inappropriate** Topics

Topic	Likely Subject
The causes of foreign investment: A case study of China in the 1980s and 1990s	History
Recovery from a low property market	Business and Organization
The ups and downs in shipping	Business and Organization

#### **Excellent** Topics

Topic
Does price discrimination exist in the taxi market near my school (Kingston, London) or near my home (Accra, Ghana)?
Are the suppliers of soft drinks in Frogner Park in Oslo price givers or price takers?
In what ways is the European market for salmon affected by the protectionism imposed by the EU Commission?
To what extent can pharmacies in the 22 <sup>nd</sup> District of Vienna be seen as firms in monopolistic competition?

Given that Burger King and McDonalds operate as an oligopoly in the fast food market in the Donau Zentrum, what is the nature of their competition?
To what extent are the school uniform providers at UWCSEA operating in a contestable market?
The effects of forming a producers' group on gum prices and incomes of women gum collectors in the Banaskantha/Patan region of Gujarat, India
How did the tax reform in Slovakia affect its growth and development?
Has the Kenyan central bank's policy of interest rate cuts led to a rise in new car sales in Nairobi?
To what extent did Matav, a Hungarian telecommunications company, become more efficient post-privatization?
Will the recent policy of cutting bakery prices lead to increased revenue for the Safeway supermarket in Ryde, Sydney?
What has been the economic effect of water privatization on the farming industry in my region of Zambia?
To what extent has the fall in the exchange rate of the US dollar affected the tourist industry in Carmel, California?
What is the effect of the recent imposition of a minimum wage in Austria on unemployment in the fast food industry in Graz?
Does the official Austrian inflation rate truly correspond to the inflation that students in Austria are experiencing?

### Very Good Topics

Topic
Do the economic benefits outweigh the economic costs when introducing genetically modified "BT" cotton into Mali?
Why did Argentina undergo a soybean boom at the turn of the millennium?
An investigation on the type of market structure of Safaricom Kenya Limited
A research into whether Galsheet Kenya Limited operates as a monopoly or an oligopoly
The effects of the new economic policies of China [liberalization] on the shoe-shining boys' market.
Does the introduction of technology into the leather industry in Dharavi worsen unemployment and economic conditions in the surrounding slum areas?
What market form characterizes the petrol supply industry in my area of Madrid?
The effects of the new Bolivia economic policies [liberalization] on the shoe-shining boys' market in La Paz city.
Life in a Sudanese refugee camp. Why is it that refugee household sizes are inversely proportional to household income?

In order for me to evaluate your idea, I will need the information on the following page. Once it is completed, we will sit down and discuss your thoughts.