



## Question starters

Below is a list of common question starters that may help you design your own research question or convert a working title into a question format.

| Question starter                                              | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To what extent ...                                            | Allows for an evaluation of the degree (extent) to which something is true or a contributing factor. To effectively answer this type of question, the main body of the essay should include considerations of other influencing factors. For example, a question relating to the extent to which the Spanish Constitution of 1931 caused the civil war of 1936 could potentially examine the role played by the military, external nations and other factors in order to more fully answer "the extent" aspect of the question. |
| Assess the role of ...                                        | Allows for an analysis of a specific factor or the contribution of something/someone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| How accurate/reliable ...                                     | Allows for an exploration relating to accuracy or usefulness.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| How far could one argue ...                                   | Allows for the analysis to focus on the accuracy/truthfulness of a specific argument or line of enquiry.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| How successful ...                                            | Allows for an evaluation of the success of an approach, method, policy, style and so on an associated area (for example, success of a political policy on economic development of X region).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| How crucial/significant ...                                   | Allows for an analysis of the significance of one or more factors on other associated areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Which factors played ...                                      | Allows for an investigation around key factors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Has the introduction (or cancellation) of ... resulted in ... | Allows for a cause/effect-style investigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Does [X] process/approach provide ...                         | Allows for a focused investigation on the result of a specific method followed or technique used.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| What is the contribution/influence of ...                     | Allows for a focused investigation on the impact (positive or negative) of a certain individual, group, material or concept on a broader area (for example, on a specific society).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| What evidence is there to support ...                         | Allows for an investigation into the nature of evidence and the extent to which it can support a thesis or approach.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| What is the impact of ...                                     | A straightforward causal investigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Is it possible to determine ...                               | An investigation into hypothetical frameworks based on existing and available evidence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Under what circumstances may ...                              | Allows an investigation into the conditions required before X is deemed possible (for example, for a business to expand).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Is there a correlation between ...                            | Allows for an investigation into the relationship between two or more factors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## Feasibility

Having a good research question is very important; however, equally as important is ensuring that this question is feasible. In order to evaluate the feasibility of a question it should meet a series of requirements including materials, equipment access and ethical guidelines, all of which will be outlined below. The key concern here is that the best questions do not always make the best Extended Essays if they cannot be researched effectively.

### Remember



The best questions do not always make the best Extended Essays if they cannot be researched effectively.