

Criterion E: Engagement

This criterion assesses the student's engagement with their research focus and the research process. It will be applied by the examiner at the end of the assessment of the essay, after considering the student's *Reflections on planning and progress form*.

Level	Descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard outlined by the descriptors below.
1–2	Engagement is limited. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on decision-making and planning are mostly descriptive.• These reflections communicate a limited degree of personal engagement with the research focus and/or research process.
3–4	Engagement is good. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on decision-making and planning are analytical and include reference to conceptual understanding and skill development.• These reflections communicate a moderate degree of personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating some intellectual initiative.
5–6	Engagement is excellent. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on decision-making and planning are evaluative and include reference to the student's capacity to consider actions and ideas in response to setbacks experienced in the research process.• These reflections communicate a high degree of intellectual and personal engagement with the research focus and process of research, demonstrating authenticity, intellectual initiative and/or creative approach in the student voice.