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EE/RPPF

For use from May/November 2018

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International Baccalaureate®
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Candidate personal code:

Extended essay - Reflections on planning and progress form

Candidate: This form is to be completed by the candidate during the course and completion of their EE. This document records reflections on your planning and progress, and the nature of your discussions with your supervisor. You must undertake three formal reflection sessions with your supervisor: The first formal reflection session should focus on your initial ideas and how you plan to undertake your research; the interim reflection session is once a significant amount of your research has been completed, and the final session will be in the form of a viva voce once you have completed and handed in your EE. This document acts as a record in supporting the authenticity of your work. The three reflections combined must amount to no more than 500 words.

The completion of this form is a mandatory requirement of the EE. It must be submitted together with the completed EE for assessment under Criterion E. As per the 'Protocols for completing and submitting the Reflections on planning and progress form' section of the EE guide, a mark of 0 will be awarded by the examiner for criterion E if the RPPF is blank or the comments are written in a language other than that of the accompanying essay.

Supervisor: You must have three reflection sessions with each candidate, one early on in the process, an interim meeting and then the final viva voce. Other check-in sessions are permitted but do not need to be recorded on this sheet. After each reflection session candidates must record their reflections and as the supervisor you must indicate the month that the reflection session took place, the candidate's year of DP study at that time and initial this form.

First reflection session

Candidate comments:

My initial topic was gravitational waves emitted by colliding neutron stars, which stemmed from my fascination in astrophysics and personal curiosity. Whilst researching, I quickly realised that the data obtained from these events were beyond my abilities to analyse. Thus, the topic was abandoned, and the focus changed to binary systems. Whilst researching, although the theoretical basis was understandable, I realised it possessed unsurmountable obstacles. Most notably the fact that different binary systems are observed with different methods, and that all methods require extensive data collection. This would make it difficult to compare the accuracy of two methods, as I intended, and impractical to collect my own data, as it requires time that I do not possess. Therefore, my plan is to refocus my topic again, in an effort to tone down the difficulty, whilst hopefully remaining in the topic of astrophysics, as this is the topic where my interests lie.

Month:

DP year (1 or 2):

Supervisor initials:



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**Interim reflection**

Candidate comments:

With dark matter as my topic, I was able to narrow down my focus to the indirect corroboration of the existence of dark matter via galactic rotation curves, specifically determining the hypothetical mass distribution of dark matter of a chosen galaxy. I quickly obtained promising data from the SPARC database, from whence a satisfactory rotation curve for the galaxy NGC3198 was plotted. Hereafter, I rapidly blundered into multiple obstacles, most notably within the derivation of the required theoretical equations. More specifically, I discovered that I required the use of integral calculus at a level significantly greater than my own. Fortunately, I have acquired contact to a university lecturer well versed in my topic, with whom I plan to schedule a meeting with in the upcoming week to discuss the solutions to my predicament, whereafter I intend to begin drafting my essay structure and work towards finalising my research question.

Month:

DP year (1 or 2):

Supervisor initials:

Final reflection - Viva voce

Candidate comments:

Now that my essay has come to completion, I can, in hindsight, conclude that I have learned a great deal about both myself and the process of creating a large body of work over the course of writing my extended essay. Most notably was the harsh realisation that I should not rely on nor expect help from others, as they won't always be there to help, and that it was necessary that I believed in my own capabilities. As, upon hearing no reply in weeks from the university lecturer that I initially contacted, I was essentially left to overcome the obstacles on my own. Although daunting, and at times incredibly difficult, I realised that, with sufficient dedication and persistence, I was capable of overcoming many of the obstacles that I faced, enabling the essay to come to fruition. I must concede that the topic of dark matter was ultimately beyond the scope of my abilities, and that I would have benefitted greatly from researching the topic in greater depths prior to acquiring data and writing, especially regarding the mathematical principles behind the topic, as I could likely have avoided the majority of the obstacles that I faced.

Month:

DP year (1 or 2):

Supervisor initials:

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Supervisor comments:

Supervisor: By submitting this candidate work for assessment, you are taking responsibility for its authenticity. No piece of candidate work should be uploaded/submitted to the e-Coursework system if its authenticity is in doubt or if contradictory comments are added to this form. If your text in the box below raises any doubt on the authenticity of the work, this component will not be assessed.

This student was pushed outside of their comfort zone and produced a wonderful piece of work with minimal input from me or any other people. This student was determined to complete a task which in their own words was difficult as the "expectations are very high". I would suggest that it's the student's expectations that were very high, of themselves, and this is why this student strived, read, calculated and recalculated, to be sure that the end product was cohesive. The student learnt about their own limitations and how to organise their time to overcome their own procrastination. An excellent effort.



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