

IB ESS | Essay Markbands

Section B of Paper 2 involves writing essays. The 9-mark questions are marked using the following markbands.

(This is taken from the ESS Guide, First Examinations 2017)

Marks	Descriptor
0	The response does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below and is not relevant to the question.
1-3	The response contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> minimal evidence of knowledge and understanding of ESS issues or concepts<input type="checkbox"/> fragmented knowledge statements poorly linked to the context of the question<input type="checkbox"/> some appropriate use of ESS terminology<input type="checkbox"/> no examples where required, or examples with insufficient explanation/relevance<input type="checkbox"/> superficial analysis that amounts to no more than a list of facts/ideas<input type="checkbox"/> judgments/conclusions that are vague or not supported by evidence/argument.
4-6	The response contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> some evidence of sound knowledge and understanding of ESS issues and concepts<input type="checkbox"/> knowledge statements effectively linked to the context of the question<input type="checkbox"/> largely appropriate use of ESS terminology<input type="checkbox"/> some use of relevant examples where required, but with limited explanation<input type="checkbox"/> clear analysis that shows a degree of balance<input type="checkbox"/> some clear judgments/conclusions, supported by limited evidence/arguments.
7-9	The response contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> substantial evidence of sound knowledge and understanding of ESS issues and concepts<input type="checkbox"/> a wide breadth of knowledge statements effectively linked with each other, and to the context of the question<input type="checkbox"/> consistently appropriate and precise use of ESS terminology<input type="checkbox"/> effective use of pertinent, well-explained examples, where required, showing some originality<input type="checkbox"/> thorough, well-balanced, insightful analysis<input type="checkbox"/> explicit judgments/conclusions that are well-supported by evidence/arguments and that include some critical reflection.

