

4.1 EE Checklist for Global Politics

Criterion A: Focus and method

	Absent	Partial	Complete
Topic is a contemporary global political issue within your lifetime, with history used only to clarify the present, and no future speculation			
The issue is clearly a political issue about how power operates in social organisation, and why it matters for people's lives			
The investigation is explicitly framed through a Global Politics lens, using relevant concepts such as power, sovereignty, legitimacy, human rights, development, sustainability, interdependence			
Multiple perspectives are built in, including viewpoints from states, NGOs, IGOs, and affected individuals, plus at least one relevant theory perspective			
The research question is a clear, focused question that is debatable and analytical, preferably using to what extent, how, in what ways			

Scope controls are explicit: actor(s), place, timeframe, and case selection logic that fits 4,000 words			
Approach and methods are justified and repeatable: case study, comparative, discourse or content analysis, with concepts and theories guiding what counts as evidence			
Source strategy fits the level of analysis: strong secondary base, primary material only if it adds clear value, not solely popular or social media			
Method includes planned bias, reliability, and limitation checks, not just data collection			
The plan keeps the essay inside Global Politics as a discipline, not generic current affairs or a substitute for another subject			
No double-dipping with other DP submissions; boundaries are clear			

Criterion B: Knowledge and understanding

	Absent	Partial	Complete
Establishes the RQ in the broader global politics context, linking the issue to relevant institutions, actors, and debates			
Uses Global Politics terminology accurately and consistently			
Uses relevant concepts purposefully to frame and interpret the case, not just to define terms			
Demonstrates understanding of relevant theoretical perspectives, used correctly as analytical tools			
Shows awareness that interpretations are shaped by social and cultural context and potential bias			
Uses an appropriate range of sources, prioritising scholarly and credible policy or institutional material			
Key factual and conceptual claims are accurate and supported, avoiding overgeneralisation			
Knowledge serves analysis: chosen material is relevant to answering the RQ			

Criterion C: Critical thinking

	Absent	Partial	Complete
Develops a clear, sustained line of argument that answers the RQ throughout			
Each paragraph makes an analytical claim tied back to the RQ, not a narrative summary			
Evidence is integrated and analysed, with concepts and theory used to interpret what the evidence means			
Competing perspectives and explanations are presented fairly and weighed before judging			
Evaluation of sources and methods is integrated where evidence is used, addressing value and limitations			
Handles contested and strategic communication by assessing credibility, incentives, and bias in sources			
Claims are proportionate and qualified, avoiding unsupported personal views or absolute statements			
Conclusion answers the RQ directly, matches the evidence,			

adds no new material, and acknowledges limitations			
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Criterion D: Presentation

	Absent	Partial	Complete
Includes required sections: title page, contents, introduction, body, conclusion, references and bibliography			
Title page includes only essentials: title, RQ, subject, word count, candidate code, with no names or school			
Contents page has accurate page numbers			
Pages are numbered			
Headings support the argument and maintain focus			
Clear academic register throughout			
Word count is within 4,000 and key sections are not pushed past the limit			
Word-count rules are applied correctly, including quotations counting and non-essential display material not being used to hide analysis			
Figures, charts, and tables are relevant, labelled, and fully sourced			

and do not carry hidden bodies of analysis			
Appendices are optional and non-essential; the essay stands alone without them			
Referencing is consistent and complete for paraphrases, quotations, data, and visuals, with a properly formatted bibliography			
Digital sources are traceable and evaluated for credibility			

Criterion E: Engagement

	Absent	Partial	Complete
RPPF is submitted in the essay language, and reflections are within the assessed limit			
Reflections are evaluative and show the student voice, not a description of tasks			
Explains why key decisions were made, including how the RQ, cases, methods, and sources evolved			
Reflections show conceptual growth in how Global Politics concepts and theory were used			

Reflects on challenges and how they were addressed, including limits of evidence and method			
Process authenticity is visible through planning → research → drafting → revision, supported by use of the RRS			
Supervision boundaries are respected: guidance is limited, supervisors do not rewrite or line-edit, and proofreading remains student-owned			