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| VCE Extended Investigation: School-assessed Coursework 2025Unit 3 Outcome 2: WRITTEN RATIONALE |
| **Assessment criteria** | **Levels of Performance** |
| **Not shown** | **1–2 (very low)** | **3–4 (low)** | **5–6 (medium)** | **7–8 (high)** | **9–10 (very high)** |
| **1. Critical engagement with research literature** |  | Very little evidence of reading and thinking about relevant sources in the research field. | Limited evidence of reading and thinking about relevant sources in the research field. | Evidence of wide reading and some critical consideration of the relevant research literature. | Critical consideration of a wide range of substantial relevant sources in the research field. | Critical consideration of a substantial range of ideas, methods and arguments reviewed in the research field. |
|  | Little explanation of the potential for a worthwhile investigation. | Limited basis for identifying a research need or opportunity for investigation. | Explanation of the likely value and significance of an investigation. | Well reasoned explanation of the likely value and significance of an investigation. | Well reasoned justification for the proposed research in the context of the field. |
| **2. Consideration of a proposed question and methods** |  | Research question is unclear, unfocused or lacks objectivity and substance. | Research question is clear but lacks focus, objectivity or substance. | Research question shows clarity and focus, and has some significance and substance. | Research question is clear and focused; its significance and substance are linked to existing research. | Research question is precise, objective, substantial and significant in the context of existing research. |
|  | Little consideration of methods likely to be manageable or to produced useful results.  | Some realistic consideration of possible methods, anticipating potential difficulties. | Critical consideration of methods most likely to yield useful results, anticipating potential challenges. | Critical evaluation of methods most likely to yield useful results, with analysis of limitations and potential challenges. | Developed reasoning for methods most likely to yield useful results, with a comprehensive analysis of possible limitations and risks to be managed. |
|  | Very little consideration of possible ethical issues. | Little consideration of possible ethical issues. | Shows some thought about possible ethical issues. | Critical consideration of possible ethical issues. | Critical consideration of how possible ethical issues may be addressed. |