

IB PSYCHOLOGY
(HL Internal Assessment)

Your Final Exam for the spring semester will be your IB Internal Assessment. IB Diploma/Certificate candidates are required to write the IA individually and not with other students (they are only permitted to share data and statistical analysis). All other students may write the IA individually **or** as a group.

TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED REPORT is due no later than _____ and must include the following (in order) using the headings below; be sure to number each page.

A cover sheet with title, student name and IB candidate number (if applicable), subject and level of course (HL), date and number of words (1500-2000 words*).

** The word count does not include supplementary information such as abstract, title page, references, section headings, parenthetical citations, graphs, charts and appendices.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract, Introduction, Method (Design, Participants, Materials, Procedure), Descriptive Results, Inferential Results, Discussion, References, Appendices

ABSTRACT

Clearly write a summary (less than 200 words) of the experimental study including the aim, the hypotheses, the method, the participants, the results and the conclusion.

INTRODUCTION (Criterion A)

Clearly state the aim of the study (a paragraph about what is being investigated and what is expected).

State the operationalized experimental/research hypothesis (a clear and concise prediction of what is expected to be demonstrated in the experiment and how the variables will be quantified) and its type (one-tailed or two-tailed) and operationalized null hypothesis (no significant difference is expected to be found on the measure of the dependent variable and that any difference found is due to chance).

Write a summary/explanation of the key theories from 3 research studies. **The studies should be made relevant to your research hypothesis.**

Justify the prediction made in the experimental hypothesis by the background studies and/or theories.

METHOD: DESIGN (Criterion B)

Accurately identify the independent and dependent variables and operationalize them.

Appropriately justify the type of the experimental design (independent samples, repeated measures etc) based on the aim.

Indicate and document how ethical guidelines were followed.

METHOD: PARTICIPANTS (Criterion C)

Identify the target population

State the number of participants you used (15 – 40) and explain how you obtained your sample- if it was not done randomly, justify why not.

Identify relevant characteristics of your participants.

METHOD: PROCEDURES (Criterion D)

Accurately describe how you carried-out your experiment (Use a chronological order beginning with how materials were developed so that another researcher could replicate the experiment).

Detail how ethical guidelines were applied.

List all materials specifically developed for use in the experiment (standardized instructions, informed consent, memory tests, word lists debriefing notes etc) and reference sample copies to appendices.

RESULTS: DESCRIPTIVE (Criterion E)

Clearly and accurately state the results which reflect the hypotheses of the research.

Apply one measure of central tendency (mean or median if there are outliers) and one measure of dispersion (range or standard deviation) and explain their use.

Accurately and clearly graph the results directly relevant to the hypotheses of the study (in appendices)

Present results in tabular form (in appendices).

RESULTS: INFERENCE (Criterion F)

Explicitly justify the inference test chosen.

Accurately state the results of the inferential test; show calculations (in appendices).

Accept or reject the null hypothesis based on an appropriate statistical significance.

DISCUSSION (Criterion G)

Discuss the results of the study based on the descriptive and inferential statistics.

Discuss the findings of the experimental study and compare these to the relevant background studies and/or theories (presented in the Introduction); make an appropriate conclusion.

Rigorously analyze the limitations of the design and procedure*

Suggest modifications and mention ideas for future research.

** Internal validity concerns can include: History, selection, mortality, maturation, diffusion of treatment, response style, order effect, Hawthorne effect, experimenter bias, instrumentation, constancy of condition, testing and progressive errors; External validity concerns come from sampling method (See Pp 92-96)*

REFERENCES (Criterion H)

Cite all sources used within the report.

Alphabetize all in-text citations and references using the APA citation method.

APPENDICES

Label each appendix appropriately with all materials necessary to allow for the experiment to be replicated.

MARK SCHEMES USED TO GRADE IA:

Criterion A	Introduction	5 marks
Criterion B	Method: Design	2 marks
Criterion C	Method: Participants	2 marks
Criterion D	Method: Procedure	2 marks
Criterion E	Results: Descriptive	2 marks
Criterion F	Results: Inferential	3 marks
Criterion G	Discussion	8 marks
Criterion H	Citation of Sources	2 marks
Criterion I	Report Format	2 marks
	Total	28 marks