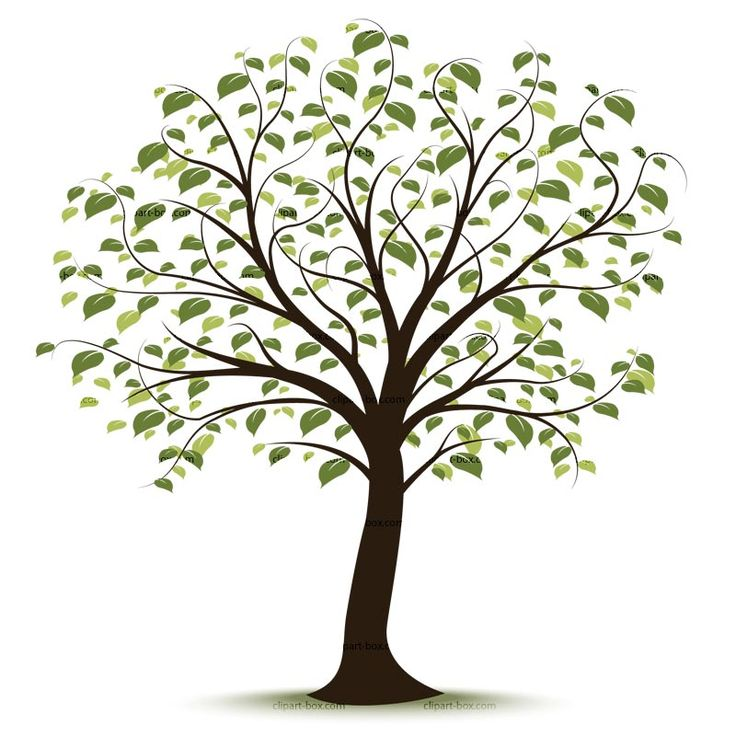
Guide to writing the Internal Assessment



**The Basics**

Your report must be more than 1,800 words and less than 2,200 words

Appendices do not count towards your wordcount

Do not use footnotes

You must replicate an existing study and can only make minor changes

You must work in a group of at least 2 students and a maximum of 4 students

SL and HL students may work together

You may work with a non-IB Psychology student if you wish – however, this is not advisable

You must write up your own individual report

Your work must be your own and will be checked using Turnitin to check for plagiarism

You must NOT work together once you have gathered your results

Any suspicions of working together to write the report or of plagiarism could result in a 0 score

You will have about 20 hours of classroom time to help guide you through the process

During that time, you will need to plan, organize and run your experiment

You will need to write up your experiment in your own time

The Internal Assessment is worth 25% (SL) or 20% (HL) of your final grade

**Report Format**

Your written format must contain the following sections:

Title page

Contents Page

Introduction

Exploration

Analysis

Evaluation

References

Appendices

**The role of the teacher**

**Explain the Internal Assessment format**

**Help choose a topic and study**

**Explain academic honesty and citation**

**Give advice on academic writing**

**Give advice on ethical considerations**

**Give advice on writing each section**

**Discuss your work with you**

**Give advice on ONE draft of your work**

**Choose your theory and study**

**Work with you to run your experiment**

**Tell you ways to change your experiment**

**Edit or mark your Internal Assessment**

**Write any part of your internal assessment**

**Tell you what to do**

**Choice of topic and study**

You can choose any area of psychology

You can choose any peer-reviewed theory

You can choose any peer-reviewed study

You must choose a study that you can replicate

You must be able to show how the study tests the theory

You must choose an experiment, not an observation or questionnaire.

You must be able explain why the study is useful and relevant to the theory

**Tips on topic choice**

Cognitive psychology is a very good area for the internal assessment

Studies on memory are easy to replicate and have a lot of research available

Look through the recommended studies list for some ideas



**Things to consider about your study**

Your study must have an independent variable and a dependent variable

Independent variable (IV): what you change between conditions  
Dependent variable (DV): what you measure to obtain statistical scores

There must only be ONE independent variable in your study  
If your chosen study has numerous conditions, you may replicate them all  
If you prefer, you can simplify your study to just two conditions

You must not change the IV but you may change HOW you operationalize it  
For example, you may change the words, music, pictures in your replication

You must NOT use the following as an independent variable:

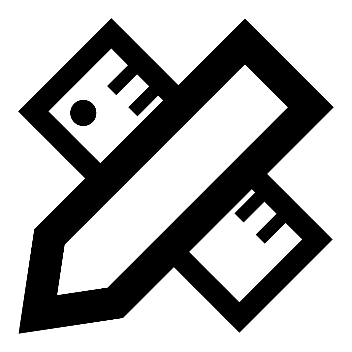
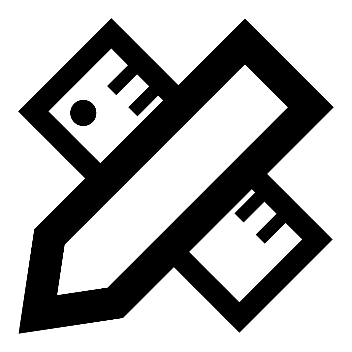
**Gender** (comparing male and female)  
**Age** (comparing old and young people)  
**Language** (comparing native and non-native speakers)  
**Culture** (comparing Western and Asian cultures)  
**Education** **level** (comparing year 1 and Year 11 students)  
**Handedness** (comparing left-handed and right-handed participants)

You must NOT use any studies that involve participants ingesting anything (food, drink, smoke)  
You must NOT deprive participants in any way (no sleep, food)  
You must NOT use placebos in your experiment

You may make minor changes to the dependent variable if you can explain why you did so

You may change the number of participants

You may change the experimental design if it is not possible to complete in a school



**How to write each section**

**Introduction (6 marks)**

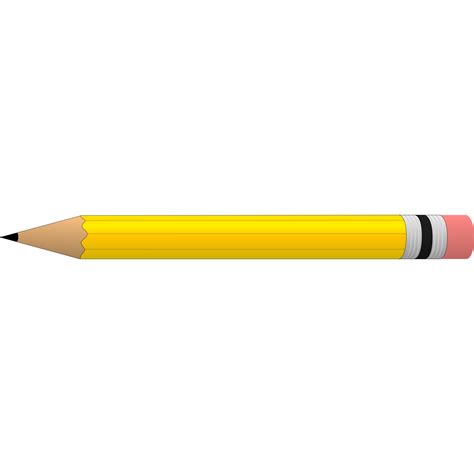
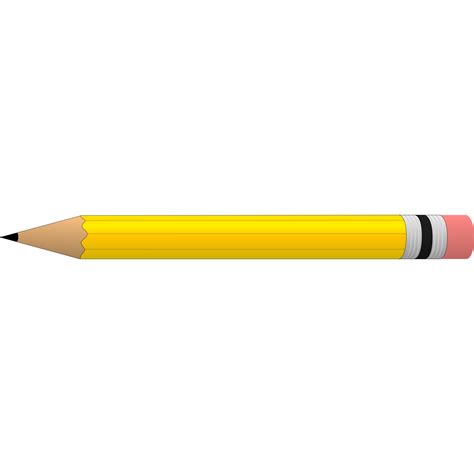
Explain the field of psychology you are examining

Explain the area within the field of psychology that you are examining

Explain the theory you are studying in detail (with references)

Briefly evaluate the theory

Explain why this theory is useful and worth investigating

Explain the study you are replicating in detail (with references)

State the aim of your study

Briefly explain how you will conduct your experiment (note any changes from the original)

Briefly explain how your study tests the theory

Briefly explain what you expect to find

State your Independent variable and your Dependent variable

Explain how the IV and DV were operationalized

State your Experimental hypothesis and Null hypothesis   
(Make sure that you have included the operationalised IV and DV in your hypotheses)

**Exploration (4 marks)**

State the experimental design you used

Explain why you used that design (not strengths and weaknesses)

State the sampling method you used

Explain why you used that method (not strengths and weaknesses)

Give some information about your participants  
(amount, age, gender, language level, cultural background

Explain why they were chosen and any characteristics particularly important for your study

Explain how participants were assigned to groups

List your method in bullet points or a brief paragraph

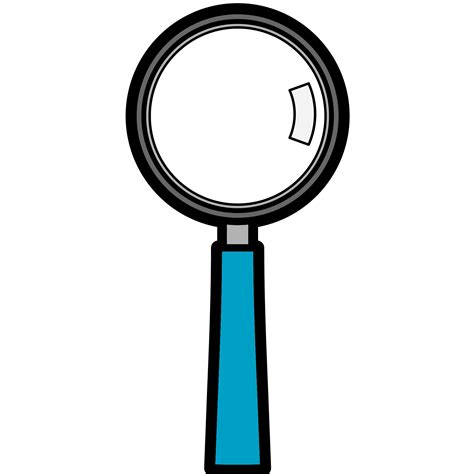
Explain what controls you used in your study and why

Briefly explain what ethical precautions you took and why

Explain what materials you used in detail and why they were chosen

Include links to your standardised instructions, debrief and examples of materials in the appendix



**Analysis (6 marks)**

**Visual**

Create a table showing the mean or median or mode of your results  
Include either the range of the standard deviation  
Give the table a title

Create a bar chart to visually display the mean/median/mode in the table  
Give the bar chart a title and clearly label the axis  
Make sure the bar chart can be used as evidence to support/refute the hypothesis

**Written**

State what measure of central tendency you used and why  
State the values of the descriptive statistics  
Briefly state what the descriptive statistics indicate in relation to your hypothesis   
(State in which appendix the raw data can be found)

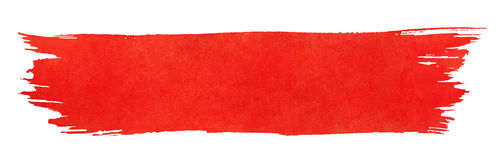
State whether a parametric or non-parametric test was used  
Use: <http://changingminds.org/explanations/research/analysis/parametric_non-parametric.htm>

State which inferential test you used and why (data type and experimental design)  
Use: <http://changingminds.org/explanations/research/analysis/parametric_non-parametric.htm>

State the degrees of freedom  
Use: <https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-find-degrees-of-freedom-3126409>

State the results of the statistical test  
Use: <http://vassarstats.net/>  
(State in which appendix the calculations can be found)

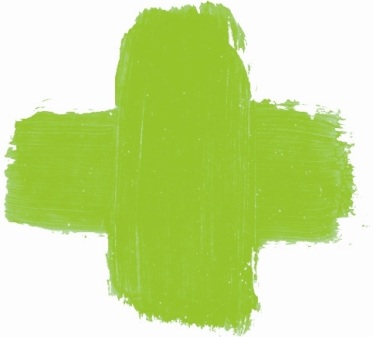
Explain if the results of the test indicate acceptance of the experimental or null hypothesis  
State which hypothesis was accepted

**Evaluation (6 marks)**

Explain what you found (summarise all results)

Explain what the results mean in terms of the hypothesis

State if there were any major outliers in the raw data

Link your results back to the original study – were they the same? Why/why not?

Explain the strengths and limitations of your method

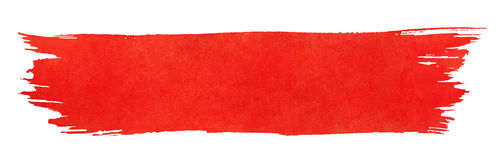
Explain any unforeseen extraneous/confounding variables that may have affected your results  
Explain any factors that you were aware of but beyond your control  
(Do not include things that you should have thought of before conducting the experiment)

Explain how you could improve your method  
(Generating better data – do not just state use more participants)

Explain the strengths and limitations of your chosen experimental design

Link the strengths and limitations directly to your study, not just general comments

Explain the strengths and limitations of your sampling method and sample (participants)

Link the strengths and limitations directly to your study, not just general comments

Explain (in detail) how your study supports/refutes the theory

Explain how what the participants did links to the theory

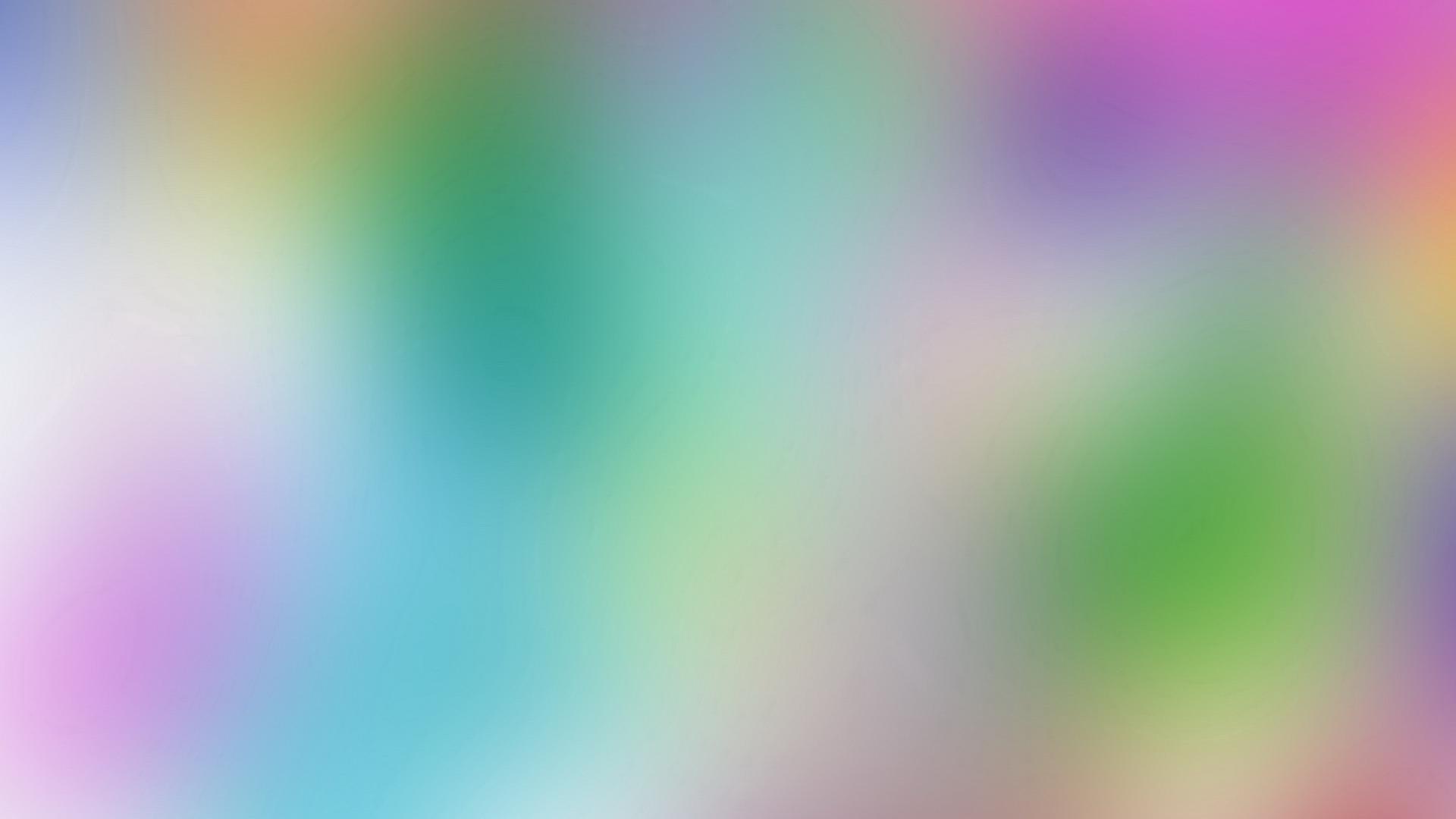
Suggest future avenues of research into the theory you have examined



Write a conclusion (not a separate heading) based on the hypothesis and statistical results



**Citation/Reference (0 marks)**

Whenever you use someone else’s work, you need to reference it.

References are usually written in APA style.

You can use other methods, but the references must consistently follow the same format.

In-text citations must be included in the main body of your text.

References must be a list of all the people you have cited in the main body of your text.

APA In-text citation: (name, year).

Example: Reconstructive memory states the individual rebuilds their memories (Bartlett, 1933).

APA In-text citation (if part of the sentence): Name (year)

Example: Bartlett (1933) proposed a reconstructive explanation of memory.

APA Reference: Name, Year, Article name, S*ource Name, volume*, (issue), pages

Bartlett, F. C., & Burt, C. (1933). Remembering: A study in experimental and social psychology. *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, *3*(2), 187-192.

Note that the journal title (and volume number) is in italics and has a capital letter for each word

There are online sources that can help you with referencing:

<http://www.citethisforme.com/>

<http://www.citationmachine.net/>

<https://scholar.google.com/>

**Appendix**

You should have an appendix entry for each of the below:

Raw data

Print out of calculations (inferential statistics)

Consent form (not filled in)

Standardized instructions

Debrief

Other relevant material you have used or created

Give each appendix a title and place on the Contents Page

For example: Appendix A – Standardized Instructions

Do not put everything into the appendix

Present the appendix properly; do not just dump information and screenshots

**Title Page**

Title of your investigation   
(e.g. An experiment to investigate the Stroop test)

Your IB candidate code  
(e.g. XYZ123)

The IB candidate code of people in your group  
(ABC123, DEF456)

Day, Month and Year of submission   
(31st March, 2018)

Number of words   
(Wordcount: 2,159)

**Contents Page**

The contents page should include these topics and their page number:

Introduction

Exploration

Analysis

Evaluation

References

Appendices

The process can be automated by Microsoft Word:  
<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Create-a-table-of-contents-in-Word-882e8564-0edb-435e-84b5-1d8552ccf0c0>



Write the introduction before you conduct your experiment to get a deeper understanding of exactly what you are doing

Even if you do not understand everything, you should find and read the original experiment you are replicating

Include page numbers starting with the introduction

No footnotes

Avoid using personal pronouns

Write in the 3rd person and passive voice

Try to avoid repeating the points and words

Be formal

No need for an Abstract

Ask for support if you are unclear about what to do

**How your IA is graded**

