

Section A: PLAN OF INVESTIGATION (100-150 words)

This is a relatively brief but important section. A sharply focused question and a clearly structured plan will be more likely to produce a successful investigation. It is also very important to note information regarding the 10 year rule as outlined in the section “Internal assessment details—SL and HL” of the guide. Students should:

<p>⤴ state the topic of the investigation, which should be formulated as a question; it could be useful to provide a rationale for the choice of the selected topic for investigation</p>	<p>Did I include my topic written as a question?</p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB: The research question should be included within the body of Section A. No credit can be obtained for a research question which only appears on the cover sheet or title page.</i></p>
<p>⤴ define the scope of the investigation; identify themes or areas of investigation to be undertaken in order to reach an effective and successful conclusion to the investigation</p>	<p>Did I include the scope of the investigation?</p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB: The scope of the investigation should identify the aspects, areas or themes* that will be explored in the investigation. The provision of a timeframe is always helpful.** It is not necessary to state what is not included.***</i> <i>*“aspects, areas or themes”—this refers to the content or the topics to be covered. It is not an excuse to summarize the summary section.</i> <i>** Whenever possible use dates because they firmly limit your topic.</i> <i>*** If you start to define what is not included, then you need to define the rest of the history of the world. Just focus on the themes as listed above.</i></p>
<p>⤴ explain the method of the investigation by stating the ways in which themes or areas will be analysed.</p>	<p>Did I explain the method that I will use to answer my question?</p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB: Methods should identify the nature of the sources* and why they have been selected.**</i> <i>* What type of sources and where the sources come from.</i> <i>** This should probably be a sentence or two about why you have picked them for evaluation. It is not enough to just state “Sources A and B will be evaluated”</i></p> <p>Method: An explanation of how you will conduct the investigation. This is similar to the method in a lab report, except you don’t write, “step 1...” You write where you will get your sources and then how you will use your sources to answer the question. The goal here is to clearly explain the procedure you are going to apply to answer your question.</p>

Section B: SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE (500-600 words)

This section should be **organized, referenced** and provide evidence of **thorough research**. This can be in either a bulleted list or continuous prose. This section should consist of factual material that is:

	In the rubric it says “factual material.” What is “factual material”?	<i>Quote from the IB, ““Factual material” is more than simple information about dates, people or events. It is information that has a purpose or use. It implies knowledge and understanding.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ drawn from sources that are appropriate for the investigation; 	<p>Did I use a wide range of sources?</p> <p>Did I use my sources in a balanced manner?</p>	<p>We are talking more than FOUR sources. The IB gives no numbers, but less than four sources means that you probably did not find enough information.</p> <p><i>Quote from the IB, “Care should also be taken to ensure that evidence and footnoting should not be from only one or two sources. This allows for greater depth of analysis.”</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ sources should be sufficient to provide an in-depth understanding of the topic and clearly related to the question 	Are all of my facts relevant to the question/topic?	<p><i>Quote from the IB, “This section must be relevant, well researched and comprehensive.”</i></p> <p><i>Quote from the IB, “candidates are encouraged to use variety of sources which are pertinent to the topic under investigation and which provide, if possible, different views and perspectives the issue.”</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ organized thematically or chronologically 	How is my summary of evidence organized? Can I justify its organization?	
	Did I stick with just a summary and stay away from analysis or synthesis?	<i>Quote from the IB, “On the other hand, it was noticed that despite the new guidelines, candidates were willing to include in this section analysis and interpretations that should have been placed on D.”</i>
	Do I give a general description of my question/topic?	At the start there should be a short description of your topic to get things into context. For some topics this can be as short as 1-2 sentences.
	Other possible questions that can apply to your question:	Do I explain what caused my topic? What the results were from my topic? Who was involved in my topic? When/where my topic took place?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ correctly and consistently referenced 	Did I include appropriate references/citations?	For me this means, MLA 7 th edition. <i>Quote from the IB, “Referencing must conform to a standard acceptable system.”</i>
	Did I include page numbers in my book/journal citations?	

C Evaluation of sources (250-400 words)

The two sources chosen for this section could be, for example, written, oral, visual or archeological. The purpose of this section is to assess the usefulness of the sources but not to describe their content or nature. Each source can be referred to in a separate paragraph or both sources can be evaluated in a running comparison. This section should consist of:

<p>✦ a critical evaluation of two important sources appropriate to the investigation</p>	<p>----Are the two sources directly related to my topic? ----Are the two sources “good” sources to use for evaluation? ----Did I make sure to evaluate the source in relation to my question?</p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB, “it should be noted that source evaluation has - in some cases become rather formulaic. Candidates need to be reminded of the importance of establishing a link between the research question and the sources to assess for the study of their specific topic.”</i></p>
<p>✦ explicit reference to the origin, purpose, value and limitation of the selected sources.</p>	<p>Did I go into some depth on the <u>origin</u> of each source? ----Did I discuss the <i>provenance</i> of my sources in full? Did I go into some depth on the <u>purpose</u> of each source? Did I go into some depth on the <u>value</u> of each source? Did I go into some depth on the <u>limitations</u> of each source? Was I critical of the sources? Did I stay away from summarizing the content of the source? If I used an internet source in my evaluation, did I make sure to highlight the problems with using the internet? <i>Quote from the IB: “Complete bibliographical details of the source maybe included as a footnotes or endnotes.”</i></p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB, “Although the evaluation of sources can be approached in the same way as practicing for the evaluation questions on Paper 1, the students are required to discuss the origin and purpose of their chosen sources in greater depth. Students should write about the provenance of their sources in full in this section so that their teachers and ultimately the moderator can assess the validity of the comments they make. They should then evaluate the value and limitation based on the origin and purpose in detail. A focus on writing out in detail the provenance might help students to avoid simply describing the content of the sources they have used.” Provenance = origins/purpose. The provenance of authors is of great importance.</i></p> <p><i>Quote from the IB, “There is a tendency to interpret value and limitations in terms utility or usefulness and this is not a valid approach when evaluating a source.”</i></p> <p><i>Quote from the IB, “It is important that the value and limitation are addressed with regard to the origin and purpose and not simply for their utility to the candidate. When addressing value and limitation superficial or generic descriptions are not credible and need to be more indicative of the specific source. Stating that an author is biased based on nationality with no linkage to what is displayed in the source is not a successful approach.”</i></p>

D Analysis (500-600 words)

Information should be correctly and consistently **referenced**. This section should consist of:

<p>⤴ an analysis that breaks down complex issues in order to bring out the essential elements, any underlying assumptions and any interrelationships involved</p>	<p>Did I make sure that my analysis is focused on the question? Did I constantly refer back to the question?</p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB, “Although there was a significant decline in the tendency of candidates to write a narrative here, many had simply ‘summarized’ their evidence rather than analysed it. In addition, many responses were not focused on analysing the specific investigation question, and several candidates had analysed evidence not presented in their summaries [section B].</i></p>
	<p>Am I doing what my plan says I will do?</p>	<p>Examples of things you might have said in your plan: Measure to what extent, comparing two things, assessing the value of something, demonstrating that there was/was not a relationship between two things, showing that one set of policies caused a certain outcome, explaining a persons thinking.</p>
	<p>Did I include references when they were needed? Note: you can lose points for not referencing in this section.</p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB: in Section D: there is the need for references again (differences between 3-4 and 5-6). Some candidates approached this section by making allusions to B: “as mentioned in B...” and C: “mentioned in C...” but without including the required references. If no references are included only a maximum of 2 marks can be awarded.</i></p>
<p>⤴ an understanding of the issue in its historical context</p>	<p>Did I include the importance of the investigation in its historical context?</p>	<p>Historical context refers to the things that were going on in the rest of the world that might have influenced the question you studied. For example, the Great Depression and the effects of World War One had huge consequences for the entire world and influenced the policies enacted by the Nazis and the world’s response to the Nazis. <i>Quote from the IB: The analysis of ‘the importance of their investigation in its historical context’ was often only referred to implicitly.”</i></p>
<p>⤴ a critical examination of the factual material presented in section B</p>	<p>Did I include an analysis of the evidence presented in my Summary (Section B)?</p>	
	<p>Did I make sure that I did not include any new evidence? (All evidence should be only in B)</p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB: This section is an analysis of the factual knowledge summarized in B, and no new evidence should be introduced in section D.</i></p>
<p>⤴ an awareness of the significance of the sources used, especially</p>	<p>Did I explain the significance of the sources presented in the</p>	<p><i>Quote from the IB, “Two areas that were particular problems in this section were the lack of awareness of the significance of the sources</i></p>

those evaluated in section C	Evaluation in Section C? --Why did you pick the sources? Or why are these sources important for your investigation?	<i>evaluated in Section C and referencing. If there are no references in this section a maximum of 2 marks can be awarded. Not addressing the sources evaluated in Section C limits the maximum mark that can be awarded to 4. These two issues impacted a significant number of this year's investigations."</i>
⤴ a consideration of different interpretations of evidence, where appropriate.	Were there different points of view about the question?	Specifically for this one, you selected different sources for your Evaluation in Section C and therefore there should be some differences that can be discussed.

E Conclusion (150-200 words)		
This section requires an answer or conclusion to the research question, based on the evidence presented.		
⤴ The conclusion must be clearly stated, consistent with the evidence presented and relevant to the research question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Does my conclusion answer my question? ⤴ Is my conclusion consistent with the evidence that presented? ⤴ Does my conclusion make a clear judgment? ⤴ Did I make sure to not include new material, evidence, quotes or judgments? ⤴ Did I only discuss information that was presented in Sections B and D? 	<i>Quote from the IB, "In general, candidates should avoid 'sweeping statements' and dramatic endings that do not 'conclude' their investigations. They should also address the whole question they have researched, and adhere to the weight of evidence presented. In addition, it would be useful to remind students not to introduce new evidence in their conclusions."</i>

F Sources and word limit

There should be accurate and consistent referencing throughout the investigation. All sources, whether written or otherwise (including interviews), should be listed.

A bibliography or list of sources and all citations, using one standard method, must be included; any illustrations, documents, or other supporting evidence should be included in an appendix. None of these will form part of the word count. The word count for the investigation must be clearly and accurately stated on the title page.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If over 2,000 words 0 marks and only the first 2,000 words are considered for A-E criteria. • If under 1,500 words no penalty in criteria F because it will not do well on other criteria. • List of sources (work's cited page) and an appendix are not considered part of the word count. 	<p>Is each section close to the word limit suggested for that section? If you have gone over, where are you not adequately addressing the requirements?</p> <p>Is my investigation within the word limit?</p>	<p>You will need to count the total number of words that your in-text references take up, as these are not included in the word count. This is a tedious by product of using the MLA 7th parenthetical citation style.</p>
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Source Page

	Do the sources follow an accepted format?	MLA 7 th edition is the required format
	Are my sources in alphabetical order?	YOU WILL GET a 0 if they are out of order
	Did I include all sources mentioned in Sections B and D?	Please make your list complete.
	Are all of the sources in the list of sources mentioned in the paper? In other words, did I avoid creating a long list of sources that I did not use?	Extra sources that you thought you might use but didn't shouldn't be included. This looks like you are trying to show more research/work than you actually did.
	Did I include date of access when citing internet sources?	When you get the page matters. Make sure you pay attention to this.
	Did I include the medium of publication for each source?	A requirement for MLA7th—mostly “Web” Or “Print”