**IB World Religions Internal Assessment Guide**

**Directions:** The internal assessment is an investigative study of an aspect of the religious experience, practice or belief of a group and/or individual adherents. It should focus around why people do what they do and/or believe what they believe. **Students must produce a written analysis of 1,500–1,800 words but no more than 1,800 words.** The focus for the study can be a visit to a sacred place, building or a museum, a study of artifacts, attendance at an act of worship, an interview or interviews with religious adherents, or a study using a range of written academic sources. However, it is important to emphasize that this is an academic exercise, which requires preliminary research. Any religion can be the focus of the study—it does not have to be taken from the list of the nine world religions in the core syllabus. Students will be expected to write a focused and precise analysis on the investigative study.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR 2021: Due to Covid- it turned out that last year the IB students did not take the May Paper 1 and 2 Exams. As a result, only their Internal Assessment was sent to the IB for Grading. Therefore, I feel the IA was the most important factor in determining the students’ final IB score. I don’t know yet about 2021, but you should prepare for this possibility again. The good news is that if you work hard, you should do very well on this IA. Last year, all 9 IB students received perfect 7/7 scores on their IAs!

The IA is divided into two main parts of work:

1. **The Investigation**: The following stages are necessary in order to carry out the investigation and set the research question:
   * **Preparation**—students are expected to have done preliminary research into their chosen topic in order to establish that it will be an appropriate area of investigation.
   * **Expectations/rationale for study**—students must have a clear conception of what they expect to find (out) and how they are going to investigate their chosen area
2. **The Written Analysis:** Each student must produce a written analysis with the following format (together with a coversheet stating the title of the investigative study and the word count) under the **five** headings given below:

**Criterion A: *Rationale and preliminary research* ≈ 500 words**

 provide a rationale for the choice of topic for the investigative study

 define the focus of the investigative study, which should be formulated as a question

 outline and justify the range of sources consulted

 select and analyze supporting evidence, showing how this evidence informs the investigative study

**Criterion B: *Plan for study* ≈ 200 words**

 clearly state and narrowly focus the research question

 outline the scope and plan for the investigative study

 identify the relationship between the research question and the scope and plan

**Criterion C: *Summary of significant findings* ≈ 400 words**

 identify and outline significant findings from the investigation through observation, interview and/or participation

 explain the relationship between research findings and the research question

 discuss the rationale and plan of study in relation to the significant findings

**Criterion D: *Critical reflection and evaluation* ≈ 600 words**

 critically reflect on the significant findings in relation to the research question

 demonstrate how the investigative study deepens an understanding of religious experiences and/or beliefs

 identify misconceptions and inconsistencies as a result of the research plan and materials used

 understand the degree to which the research was successful in producing significant findings for analysis, and justifying future research

**Criterion E: *References and compliance with format***

 the work is no more than the 1,800 word limit

 the list of references consistently follows a standard format

 the format of the written analysis has been followed as described in the section “The written analysis”

It should go without saying that work should be your own work—and the final will go on turnitin.com. The paper should be in MLA format with the exception of informational footnotes that can be used. Double or 1.5 spacing is acceptable.

**TENTATIVE CALENDAR**

**This may change some…**

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| **Jan 12**  **Day 1** | 1. Find your topic 2. Start finding some sources 3. YOU MUST FIND 1 BOOK TO READ approved by Mr C |
| **Jan**  **14**  **Day 2** | 1. Find your topic 2. Start finding sources 3. YOU MUST FIND 1 BOOK TO READ approved by Mr C 4. START READING and NOTETRACKING! |
| **Jan 18**  **Day 3** | 1. Finalize your topic 2. Finalize finding sources 3. Continue Reading and Notetracking 4. Start your PLAN for STUDY |
| **Jan 20**  **Day 4** | 1. Continue reading and notetracking 2. Continue your PLAN for STUDY |
| **Jan 22**  **Day 5** | 1. Continue reading and notetracking 2. Finalize your PLAN for STUDY |
| **Jan 26**  **Day 6** | 1. Continue reading and notetracking 2. CARRY OUT your PLAN for STUDY |
| **Jan 28**  **Day 7** | 1. Criterion A (Rationale & Preliminary Research 500 Words) due today 2. CARRY OUT your PLAN for STUDY |
| **Feb 1** | 1. Continue reading and notetracking 2. Finish PLAN for STUDY |
| **Feb 3** | 1. Continue reading and notetracking 2. Criterion B (Plan for Study 200 Words) due today |
| **Feb 5** | 1. Continue reading and notetracking 2. Start working on Criterion C- Summary of Significant Findings |
| **Feb 18** | 1. Continue reading and notetracking 2. Continue working on Criterion C- Summary of Significant Findings |
| **Feb 22** | 1. Continue reading and notetracking 2. Continue working on Criterion C- Summary of Significant Findings |
| **Feb 24** | 1. **Criterion C- Summary of Significant Findings- 400 Words Due Today** |
| **Feb 26** | Start working on Criterion D- Critical Reflection and Evaluation |
| **Mar 2** | Continue working on Criterion D- Critical Reflection and Evaluation |
| **Mar 4** | Continue working on Criterion D- Critical Reflection and Evaluation |
| **Mar 8** | **Criterion D-Critical Reflection and Evaluation- 600 Words Due Today** |
| **March 10th and 12th** | Finalize your FINAL FORMATTED PAPER |
| **3rd or 4th Week of March** | **FINAL INTERNAL ASSESSMENT PAPER is DUE and SUBMITTED to IB** |