

IB Math AA Internal Assessment guide - Suggested timeline

Guiding students through the IA process requires a structured approach. This roadmap provides weekly checkpoints from topic ideation to final submission, integrating essential Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills at each stage.

Month	Stage	Date	Description
1	Foundation & Ideation	Week 1 and 2	Topic Brainstorming & Initial Research. Teacher Role: Introduce the IA, criteria (A-E), and expectations. Facilitate brainstorming sessions, encouraging students to connect math to personal interests. Provide examples of suitable and unsuitable topics. Student Task: Explore broad areas of interest, conduct preliminary research, and identify potential mathematical links. ATL Focus: Research Skills (finding credible sources), Thinking Skills (generating ideas, conceptualizing).
		Week 3 and 4	Refining the Aim & Initial Planning. Teacher Role: Help students narrow down broad ideas into a focused, clear aim. Discuss potential mathematical concepts. Introduce planning templates. Student Task: Formulate a clear and concise aim for their exploration. ATL Focus: Thinking Skills (critical thinking, organizing ideas), Self-management Skills (planning, time management). Begin outlining potential mathematical approaches. Start initial planning (e.g., data collection methods, required math).
2 and 3	Development & Drafting	Weeks 5-8	Data Collection / Mathematical Development & First Draft Teacher Role: Provide guidance on data collection methods (if applicable), mathematical tools, and structuring the first sections. Review initial drafts for Criterion A & B Student Task: Gather necessary data or develop mathematical models. Begin drafting the introduction, mathematical development, and early analysis

			ATL Focus: Communication Skills (drafting, presenting ideas), Self-management Skills (perseverance, resilience).
		Weeks 9-12	Analysis, Reflection & Second Draft Teacher Role: Guide students on interpreting results, engaging in critical reflection (Criterion D). Provide feedback on Criterion C and D. Student Task: Conduct thorough mathematical analysis. Begin drafting reflections throughout the paper and a comprehensive conclusion. ATL Focus: Thinking Skills (analytical thinking, critical reflection), Communication Skills (articulating findings).
4 & Beyond	Refinement & Submission	Weeks 13-14	Final Review & Polish Teacher Role: Facilitate peer feedback sessions. Provide final guidance on presentation (Criterion A) and mathematical communication (Criterion B). Emphasize meticulous proofreading. Student Task: Incorporate feedback, meticulously check for consistency, accuracy, and clarity across all criteria. Prepare final bibliography/references. ATL Focus: Social Skills (peer feedback), Self-management Skills (attention to detail, meeting deadlines).
		Week 15	Final Submission Teacher Role: Collect final drafts. Begin internal marking and moderation. Student Task: Submit final, polished IA. ATL Focus: Self-management Skills (responsibility, commitment).