

IB Psychology Internal Assessment guide - IA checklist

Criterion A

Guiding Question / Checklist Item	Absent	Partial	Complete
RQ is specific, researchable, and framed as a clear question (not a topic).			
Issue is explicitly real-life and contextualized for the target population.			
Population of interest is operationally defined (age, setting, key attributes).			
Key constructs/variables are defined with references (operational definitions).			
Background Study 1: relevance to RQ and explicit methodological link explained.			
Background Study 2: relevance to RQ and explicit methodological link explained.			
Gaps/limitations in prior research justify your investigation's focus.			
Feasibility and scope are realistic within IA constraints (time, resources, ethics).			
Expected direction of findings is stated and reasoned from background studies.			
Preview of ethical considerations linked to this specific population/topic.			

Criterion B

Guiding Question / Checklist Item	Absent	Partial	Complete
Chosen method is one of the four approved options and explicitly named.			
Method is justified as the best fit to answer the RQ (with alternatives considered).			
Sampling strategy: inclusion/exclusion criteria, recruitment, and sample size justified.			
Setting and timing described precisely (where, when, duration).			
Step-by-step procedure replicable by another researcher.			
Materials/instruments listed and justified (reliability/validity)			

considerations).			
Bias controls: randomization/counterbalancing/blinding or equivalent where relevant.			
Ethical plan: informed consent, anonymity/confidentiality, right to withdraw, debrief.			
Risk assessment and mitigation appropriate to participants and context.			
Pilot test plan or results used to refine method/procedure.			

Criterion C

Guiding Question / Checklist Item	Absent	Partial	Complete
Tool/instrument is described in detail and appended; minimum five original items.			
Item wording is clear, unbiased, and appropriate to the population's reading level.			
Response format/scales are specified and justified			
Content/construct validity addressed (expert review, mapping to constructs).			
Reliability considered			
Piloting feedback summarized with concrete revisions to items/procedure.			
Data collection logistics: timeline, platform, access, storage, and backup plan.			
Missing data handling/quality checks (attention checks, exclusion criteria) planned.			
Anticipated challenges linked explicitly to the RQ/aim (and mitigation strategies).			

Criterion D

Guiding Question / Checklist Item	Absent	Partial	Complete
Predicted findings are specific and logically reasoned.			
Alternative plausible outcomes considered and their interpretations outlined.			
Implications translate findings to practice/policy for the target			

population.			
Links drawn to both background studies.			
Methodological limitations critically appraised (internal/external validity).			
Researcher bias reflection: personal assumptions + design-related sources of bias.			
Proposed additional method is clearly distinct and justified for deeper insight.			
Ethical implications of predicted findings and dissemination considered.			
Future research directions are concrete, feasible, and logically follow from IA.			
Conclusion synthesizes RQ, rationale, method fit, and expected contributions.			