

IB History Internal Assessment guide - Suggested timeline

Stage	Date	Description
1		Introduction of the IA Teacher introduces the IA to students. The purpose of the IA is explained, along with assessment criteria, word limit, and academic honesty/authenticity expectations.
2		Topic selection: Students brainstorm and research possible topics. Submit 2–3 topic options with an initial feasibility check (access to sources, time constraints, and practical limitations).
3		Research question and variables: Based on the chosen/most viable topic, students draft one or more research questions. A scope/controls table is developed (time period, place, key actors, definitions, and boundaries).
4		Approval checkpoint: Teacher reviews the proposed topic and research question. Topic + question must be approved before major drafting begins.
5		Source collection: Students complete a focused source hunt, collecting 8–12 candidate sources. From these, select the two best sources for Section A.
6		Section A drafting: Write Section A using the selected sources, including OPVL and a clear explanation of relevance to the investigation.
7		Section B planning: Produce a detailed plan for Section B: working thesis, sequence of claims, “evidence buckets” (which evidence supports which claim), and at least one counter-perspective.
8		Section B drafting: Write Section B with integrated evidence, evaluated perspectives, and a reasoned conclusion linked back to the research question.
9		Section C drafting: Write Section C, reflecting on the method/process, challenges, and what was learned, explicitly linking reflection to your investigation choices and limitations.
10		Submission of full draft and feedback: Submit one complete draft for teacher feedback (according to school policy).
11		Submission of final IA: Submit the final IA report. Authenticity confirmed and final checks completed (citations, formatting, word count).