**IB World Religions Internal Assessment Guide**

**Official IB IA 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.

You can see examples of former TAS students’ IAs that received perfect scores on my website: [www.mrciambarellaclass.com](http://www.mrciambarellaclass.com) Click on “Hall of Fame” at the top!

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.

**Mr. C Advice on a Great World Religions IA:**

1. Balance 3 Things:
2. LOTS OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH (academic journal articles or academic books)

+ 2) “SPECIAL WORLD RELIGIONS STUFF” such as

1. Professional-looking **interviews** of practitioners

(ideally 1 or 2 ‘experts’ and 1 or 2 “normal” practicioners)

1. **Visits to sacred places**

(such as a visit to a temple or Church)

+ 3) “ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY DOCUMENTS”

(such as **sacred texts** of the religion)

1. **Basic structure of a good IA:**

Section 1-2: Here is my question + Here is a summary of all the academic research I did on my topic

Section 3-4: Here are the interviews I did with other people…and/or

Here is what I found at my visit to these places….and/or

Here is my analysis of sacred texts

Section 5-6: Here is my analysis comparing academic research + interviews/visits = my own opinion now & answer to my question.

1. **Mr. C experience with the IA & things to consider:**
2. This should be an easy 25% “A” or “A+” to your final IB score

-As long as you follow the format 75% of students get a perfect 7/7 score on the IA, and almost everyone 100% gets at least a 6/7 score

-The only reasons you get a bad score from the IB on the IA is if you do not follow format directions

1. In the past students who did an “Eastern/Taiwan” topic got perfect 7/7 scores because they can easily do interviews and visits, etc.
2. If you are worried about your overall IB score you might want to do an IA topic about Christianity or Judaism since 45% of your IB final grade is “Paper 2” where you need to write 1 of your 2 essays about either Christianity or Judaism. So the IA could be a good time for your to learn more about Judaism or Christianity.
3. On this note…sometimes the Paper 2 Essay Question is about a religion’s views on women/feminism; or abortion; or other controversial topics.