Supported preparation: Experimental preparation and data

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Psychology · SL

Scope and prerequisites

IB Psychology, the course first assessed in 2027. This supplement goes with Topic 3: research methods, the class practicals (an experiment, an interview or focus group, an observation and a questionnaire) and the research proposal, which plans a study but does not carry it out.

Mapped preparation outcomes: ib_psychology_sl.3.1, ib_psychology_sl.3.2. Read the matching native lesson first. Actual approved choices, evidence and final learner work remain separate.

Source vocabulary

independent variable ; **dependent variable** .

Explanation and worked method

Specify the independent variable, dependent measure, allocation, controls and consent before analysis. Standardization reduces avoidable variation; random assignment differs from random sampling. In a class practical, keep your real data; never replace them with illustrative numbers.

Original source / task evidence

Rehearsal: fictional recall scores are 4, 6, 8 for format A and 3, 4, 5 for B. Calculate means and state what cannot follow from them.

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
Experimental preparation and data

Rehearsal: fictional recall scores are 4, 6, 8 for format A and 3, 4, 5 for B. Calculate means and state what cannot follow from them.

Mean A=(4+6+8)/3=6 items; mean B=(3+4+5)/3=4 items; difference=2 items. These means alone do not establish statistical significance, a population effect or a causal design. Inspect variability, allocation and assumptions before choosing analysis.

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Independent transfer

The same pupils complete both recall formats. What changes in design and analysis?

Attempt independently before reading the model.

Checked original model

Scores are paired within pupils, so analyse within-person differences with an appropriate paired method and assumptions. Randomize or counterbalance order to reduce sequence effects and use comparable material. Paired design is not random sampling and does not ensure generalization.

These are authored formative expectations, not official IB descriptors. Accept other justified arguments with evidence and material limits.

Source and task holds

This supplement teaches the method for this part of the course. The full assessment criteria and any texts your school chooses come from your teacher.

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