

The written account

This section gives further clarification on what each section of the investigation should contain.

Every student **must** produce a written account consisting of the following six sections.

- A Plan of the investigation
- B Summary of evidence
- C Evaluation of sources
- D Analysis
- E Conclusion
- F Sources and word limit

Total: 1,500–2,000 words

25 marks

A Plan of the investigation

This is a relatively brief but important section. A sharply focused question and a clearly structured plan will be more likely to produce a successful investigation. It is also very important to note information regarding the 10 year rule as outlined in the section “Internal assessment details—SL and HL” of the guide.

Students should:

- state the topic of the investigation, which should be formulated as a question; it could be useful to provide a rationale for the choice of the selected topic for investigation
- define the scope of the investigation; identify themes or areas of investigation to be undertaken in order to reach an effective and successful conclusion to the investigation
- explain the method of the investigation by stating the ways in which themes or areas will be analysed.

B Summary of evidence

This section should be organized, referenced and provide evidence of thorough research. This can be in either a bulleted list or continuous prose.

This section should consist of factual material that is:

- drawn from sources that are appropriate for the investigation; sources should be sufficient to provide an in-depth understanding of the topic and clearly related to the question
- correctly and consistently referenced
- organized thematically or chronologically.

C Evaluation of sources

The two sources chosen for this section could be, for example, written, oral, visual or archeological. The purpose of this section is to assess the usefulness of the sources but not to describe their content or nature. Each source can be referred to in a separate paragraph or both sources can be evaluated in a running comparison.

This section should consist of:

- a critical evaluation of **two** important sources appropriate to the investigation
- explicit reference to the origin, purpose, value and limitation of the selected sources.

D Analysis

This section should consist of:

- an analysis that breaks down complex issues in order to bring out the essential elements, any underlying assumptions and any interrelationships involved
- an understanding of the issue in its historical context
- a critical examination of the factual material presented in section B
- an awareness of the significance of the sources used, especially those evaluated in section C
- a consideration of different interpretations of evidence, where appropriate.

Information should be correctly and consistently referenced.

E Conclusion

This section requires an answer or conclusion to the research question, based on the evidence presented.

The conclusion must be clearly stated, consistent with the evidence presented and relevant to the research question.

F Sources and word limit

There should be accurate and consistent referencing throughout the investigation. All sources, whether written or otherwise (including interviews), should be listed.

A bibliography or list of sources and all citations, using one standard method, must be included; any illustrations, documents, or other supporting evidence should be included in an appendix. None of these will form part of the word count. The word count for the investigation must be clearly and accurately stated on the title page.