# Preparing for the Internal Assessment: EXPLORATION section

*The Psych IA is explained in the OUP textbook, p488-512. Read p495 for details about the Exploration.*

## Writing your EXPLORATION: what to include

1. Research design:
   1. Name and describe the experimental design (independent measures/repeated measures).
   2. Explain why it was the most appropriate one to use. (See Pro Tip below)
2. Sampling technique:
   1. Name and describe the sampling technique (opportunity/volunteer/etc). How did you find the participants?
   2. Explain why it was the most appropriate one to use. (See Pro Tip below)
3. Participants:
   1. List key characteristics of your sample: number of participants, age, gender, school. Include other relevant characteristics, e.g. in a test of colour perception they must not be colour-blind. If your experiment involves comprehension and memory of words, they must be proficient in English.
   2. Explain why you chose participants with these characteristics. (See Pro Tip below)
4. Materials:
   1. List the materials used. You do not need to include tables, chairs, pencils, etc but must include materials that were specific to your experiment.
   2. Put one copy of each material in the appendix and write in-text citations for your appendix, e.g. “Informed Consent form (see Appendix 1)”
   3. Briefly describe each material – e.g. “A 180 word story about laundry, written in a way that made the subject matter ambiguous by avoiding terminology about clothes and washing”
   4. Briefly explain each materials – why it was designed that way, how it was used
5. Procedure:
   1. Write step-by-step instructions for the experiment. Someone who is unfamiliar with the study should be able to replicate it.
   2. Make the difference between the conditions clear
   3. Bonus fact: you actually don’t get graded on this section. It just has to be there.
6. Control variables:
   1. Name and describe the variables that you controlled by acknowledging them or keeping them the same.
   2. Explain how each one could interfere with your results. (See Pro Tip below)

Pro Tip:

Whenever you’re explaining why your experiment was designed in a certain way, make sure your explanation is specific to your situation in terms of your aim, your time-constraints, your access to resources, etc.