

through discussion. The central material should be between 2500 and 4000 words. The central material must contain a cross-cultural perspective and address continuity and/or change. The cross-cultural perspective and continuity and/or change should be integrated in the central material of the PIP.

Conclusion

The conclusion requires a statement (no more than 500 words) of what the student learnt from the PIP.

Resource list

The resource list should include annotated references used in the PIP and/or a list of other kinds of resources, for example films, internet sites or electronic resources referred to during the preparation of the project, and resource persons (eg people interviewed). The references should be accurate and include publication/production details. For each internet site, the URL and the most recent date the site was visited should be included, along with a short annotation on its usefulness to the PIP.

PIP examination criteria

The following criteria will be used to mark the Personal Interest Project:

- Evidence of achievement of the course outcomes related to the PIP.
- The clarity of the topic, purposes and procedures of the PIP.
- A demonstrated understanding and application of the concepts of the course.
- The appropriate use of research methods essential to the course.
- The accuracy and relevance of the subject matter for the purposes of the PIP.
- A demonstrated knowledge and understanding of viewpoints different from the immediate culture of the student.
- A demonstration of how continuity and/or change have been addressed.
- An integration in a coherent structure of various aspects of the course.
- Conclusions that proceed from the stated introduction and arguments presented in the PIP.
- Evidence that personal experience is related to public knowledge.
- Effective communication of the student's ideas to a wider audience.
- Evidence of originality of design, analysis and execution.
- Evidence of social and cultural literacy.
- Evidence that sources of information are referenced.

Students should consider the following in the preparation of their Personal Interest Project:

Clarity

Is the topic clearly stated? Are the purposes and procedures of the PIP clear?

Conceptual content

Does the PIP reflect the concepts of the course?

Social and Cultural research methods

Does the PIP demonstrate some of the research methods essential to the Society and Culture course plus any other distinctive procedures? Are the research methods appropriate for the topic? Is there evidence of a systematic approach to the study of the topic? Is there an awareness of both the limitations and the values of the research methods used?

Students should consider the ethical implications of both their topic and the methods they employ to research that topic.

Subject matter content

Is the subject matter accurate, relevant to the topic and adequately explained for the purposes of the project?

Cross-cultural content

Does the topic reflect some knowledge and understanding of viewpoints different from that of the immediate culture of the student in terms of, for example, socioeconomic group, gender, ethnicity or location?

Continuity and change

Does the topic reflect some knowledge and understanding of continuity and/or change, for example viewpoints of different generations, links between the past, the present and the future?

Integrative skills

Has the PIP integrated various aspects of Society and Culture? Does the PIP achieve a coherent structure? Do the conclusions proceed from the statements in the introduction and the arguments presented in the central material? Is personal experience related to public knowledge?

Communication skills

Is there evidence of social and cultural literacy? Has the student effectively communicated her or his ideas to the external audience?

Originality

Does the PIP give evidence of originality in design, analysis and execution?

Acknowledgement of sources

Does the PIP acknowledge all sources of information consulted during research?

Personal Interest Project Research Proposal

Student name:

To be completed and signed by student and teacher.

Original to be kept by teacher as part of Personal Interest Project certification records. Students should receive a copy of the completed form.

	Student proposal:	Teacher comments:
General areas of interest		
Specific topic statement or question		
Statement of the specific aims of the research and the overall goals of your Personal Interest Project		
Statement of how the topic relates to the Society and Culture syllabus, including identifying specific concepts		
Statement of which methods will be used in researching the topic, and why they are appropriate		
Outline of resources that can be accessed to research the topic		

Student signature:

Date: / /

Teacher signature:

Date: / /

Personal Interest Project Progress Report

Student name:

To be completed and signed by student and teacher at three appropriate points during the research and writing process.
Original to be kept by teacher as part of Personal Interest Project certification records. Students should receive a copy of the completed form.

Student comments:

Are there any changes to your topic statement or question?																					
Comment on the progress of your diary.																					
Comment on the progress of your research.																					
Comment on the progress of your writing and editing.																					
Outline your next steps towards completing your PIP.																					
Questions or other comments.																					
Self-evaluation: locate your current position on the scale 1–10.	<table style="width:100%; border:none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align:center;">1</td> <td style="text-align:center;">2</td> <td style="text-align:center;">3</td> <td style="text-align:center;">4</td> <td style="text-align:center;">5</td> <td style="text-align:center;">6</td> <td style="text-align:center;">7</td> <td style="text-align:center;">8</td> <td style="text-align:center;">9</td> <td style="text-align:center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5" style="text-align:center;"><i>Starting your PIP</i></td> <td colspan="5" style="text-align:center;"><i>The finished PIP</i></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	<i>Starting your PIP</i>					<i>The finished PIP</i>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10												
<i>Starting your PIP</i>					<i>The finished PIP</i>																

Teacher comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> use and application of concepts <input type="checkbox"/> application of research methods <input type="checkbox"/> cross-cultural comparison <input type="checkbox"/> continuity and/or change <input type="checkbox"/> communication skills <input type="checkbox"/> appropriateness of resources <input type="checkbox"/> integration skills <input type="checkbox"/> achievement of outcomes: H1, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8 H9, H10. 	
Overview of work in progress and suggestions for further development.	

Student signature: Date: / / Teacher signature: Date: / /