

# What does a summary method for the Individual Inquiry look like?

The purpose of the summary method in the external Individual Inquiry task is to inform the assessor of what you did in your practical investigation. It is not intended to be a full step-by-step write up as this appears in the Design Proposal in AT1. However, you are expected to provide an update of any changes to the design following teacher feedback.

Quite often, students use a significant proportion of the 1,500 word limit to repeat the method in AT1. This means they are unable to provide an analysis of the data (IAE3) and evaluation of the method (IAE4) in sufficient detail to reach the higher levels in this task.

In this resource, you can see a full method as it appears in the Design Proposal and a summary of this method that was submitted in the Individual Inquiry. This investigation was looking at the impact that different organic substances had on the pH of soil when making compost.

## 1. Method for Design Proposal (Folio: AT1)

Key information (shown in green) in the method is highlighted

### Setting up the practical

1. Peel all of the oranges and lemons completely
2. Cut up all the peels into roughly 0.5 to 1cm diameter pieces by cutting as finely as possible. See image below
3. Place the peels on an oven tray with baking paper and place in oven on the lowest temperature 120°C, for 3 hours to dry
4. Puncture 6 holes evenly throughout each containers lid using the nail as seen in the image below
5. Measure out 3 x 50g of soil using the scales and add 50g to three containers
6. Weigh 3 x 10g of the orange peel using the scales and add them to each container
7. Repeat step 6 for each different organic matter and leave one without any material
8. Mix in each container's material with the soil so it is evenly spread across the container as seen in the image below
9. Water the soil in the container with 15 sprays from a water spray bottle
10. Take each sample container out of the incubator after a week
11. Use a spoon to shovel out samples of soil only and using the scales measure out 5g
12. Place the 5g of soil into a labelled beaker
13. Measure out 5ml of water from a tap and add to the 5g of soil in the beaker
14. Mix water and soil so the water becomes muddy and a brown colour

15. Using a clean pipette pick up one squeeze worth of the muddy water
16. Turn on the pH probe and add the water from the pipette into the dedicated spot
17. Wait for the digital number on the pH probe to include a “smiley face” then record that number as the pH of the soil
18. Pour the soil water into the sink then add enough distilled water to clean it
19. Rinse once more and dry gently but well
20. Once the sample has been recorded, again spray the container with 15 sprays of water and return back into the incubator
21. One week later, retest the samples by repeating steps 10 – 19.

Word Count: 354

### Summary Method in Individual Inquiry (AT3)

Only key information appears in the summary method

10g of dried and cut orange peel, lemon peel, crushed egg shell and tea leaves were added individually to 50g of soil samples (including a control of just soil) and watered with 15 sprays from a water bottle and left in an incubated.

Images used to enhance the summary method, but uses fewer words



Peels chopped up to 0.5 – 1cm diameter

Plastic containers with holes

Mixture of soil and organic materials

After a week, 5g of each soil sample was mixed with 5ml of water and the pH tested three times for each, using an electronic pH meter. Once tested, add a further 15 sprays of water to the soil sample and replace in the incubator. Repeat the testing procedure one week later.

Word Count: 112