

Evaluation / Critique of a Journal Article

1. Questions to ask about the Introduction.

Does the introduction provide a sound rationale for the research?

Is the research question identified clearly?

Is it a significant question – does the researcher make a good case for the significance of this research?

Does the research question follow from the information given in the introduction?

Is the hypothesis a testable one?

Do you think that the research is useful?

Can you think of any problems that the researcher(s) might have in conducting their research?

Is the review of previous literature written critically, giving strengths and weaknesses of previous work?

Are the references current?

Are the references primary ones?

2. Questions to ask about the Method.

Who were the participants for this research?

What comments can you make regarding the sample? This might include the size of the sample, the type of people that were included (or not included) and the extent to which the findings might be generalised to others.

Did the research conform to ethical guidelines?

Did the participants give their informed consent, was there any possibility of harm etc?

Was the method used appropriate for the questions that the researcher was asking?

What reasons do you think the researchers might have had for choosing the method that they did?

What alternatives could they have used?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the chosen method?

How was the independent variable manipulated? Are there any problems with this? Are there any possible confounding variables? How was the dependent variable measured? Consider the reliability and validity of the chosen measurement.

3. Questions to ask about the Results.

What statistical analysis has been chosen?

Is this appropriate?

Is there any other form of analysis that could have been done?

What does the analysis show?

Are the tables / graphs appropriate? Are they easy to interpret?

Does the flow of the results section relate to the aim / method? Have results been presented on everything that the researcher intended to investigate? Have any other results been presented?

Do you agree with the conclusions that the researchers have drawn from their data? Are there any other factors that could have influenced, or accounted for, the results?

4. Questions to ask about the Discussion / Conclusions

Have the researchers succeeded in their aims?

How does this research compare / contrast with previous research?

Do the researchers address the limitations of their research?

What implications does the research have?

What further research could be conducted?

Does this article raise any further questions that the author doesn't address?

Are the conclusions stated clearly?

Are the conclusions sufficiently cautious or are the researchers claiming too much from their research?

Are any other conclusions possible?

Critique of Introduction	Critique of Method
Critique of Results	Critique of Discussion / Conclusions
Any other critical comments e.g. references	

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn y Gymraeg.