

# Exemplar Independent Investigation Proposal Form – No.7



**AO comment (Title):**  
The wording in the teachers comment gives the student some aspects to think about and reflect on without giving him / her specific guidance on any changes to make to their title. The comments encourage the student to be clear on his / her meanings; however the scale of investigation comment is specific guidance as it removes independence.

You have picked a broad title but I can see why you have chosen it as I know you are involved with a local youth group. Newport as a city is not a 'local area' but I am assuming you will pick a much smaller scale for fieldwork / data collection? There are terms in your title that you need to be clear what you mean so that you know what data to collect.

It is really good to see this written in your own words as you have thought this through however you need to be explicit in your links with the specification content

I am pleased to see that you have defined what you mean by 'local area'. Can you get hold of data at this local level? Do you remember we talked about super output areas in class? This might even be too small for that.

The purpose of your sub-questions is to break the title down; do you think yours do this? What is it you want to find out and how will you measure / investigate this?

**AO comment (Planned investigation)**  
The teachers comment above in red is specific guidance as they alerting the student to a particular type of place boundary / data source.

The data collection techniques you have identified are sound for a qualitative methodology. You need to 'flesh out' and be much clearer on the actual data you will collect and how this links back to you sub-questions as well as your title. Your data collection needs to be manageable for example your interviews and questionnaires could generate lots of data / information – how will you manage this and how will you analyse it?

For secondary data, these are sensible ideas. Have you researched whether this data is currently available?

<b>Centre name</b>		<b>Centre number</b>
<b>Investigation title</b>	<b>How the title links to specification content</b>	
To what extent do young people feel engaged with their local area in Newport?	When people live in a place or visit a place they can have or develop an emotional attachment to it. I think what people do in a place for example where they walk, activities they do etc. forms their attachment. I also want to look at how far people engage in a place and why that is.	
<b>Planned investigation hypothesis or question/sub-questions</b>		
For the local area I am defining this as the St Julians Ward area in Newport, this includes schools, a youth centre, park, boxing club, shops and cafes as I am hoping these will give me enough access to young people for the purpose of data collection. My sub-questions for investigation are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What activities to 14 – 18 year olds do in their local area?</li> <li>• How positive do young people feel about their local area?</li> <li>• How and why do young people behave differently in a local area?</li> </ul>		
<b>Investigation focus – indication of how the enquiry will enable the candidate to address their investigation title and explore their theme in relation to the chosen geographical area.</b>		
The focus of my investigation is looking at young people in Newport identifying how they engage in their local area and why they do or do not engage. As a young person I feel more comfortable in some areas than others and I know that different people will take part in different activities in their local area and I wonder why that is? I have referred to young people and for this I am narrowing this down to 14-18 year olds.		
<b>Planned methodology – indication of qualitative and/or quantitative techniques including primary and, if relevant, secondary data collection techniques, indication of the planned sampling strategy or strategies.</b>		<b>Individual:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
As I am looking at what people do in their local area and how they feel about it, qualitative techniques would work better. I plan to do a survey (and then map) of all the activities in St Julians which are available to young people. I would like to interview small groups of young people to look how they feel about their local area and how they behave. I am planning to give a questionnaire to approximately 20 young people to find out what they do in the local area, how they feel and behave. I am going to trial my questionnaire and interview questions on two friends to make sure they are clear and I will get helpful responses for my analysis. The questionnaire sample of 20 should be sufficient to represent the views of young people and I will make sure I have males, females and a mix of age groups. For secondary data I want to collect maps showing the distribution of activities in St Julians Ward, and collect any census data about the number of young people in the ward. I will get in touch with places that young people use and see if they have any data on the activities people engage with.		<b>Group data collection:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Teacher's approval and comments</b>		<b>Approved:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
You have the beginnings of a really interesting investigation, if you take these ideas and plan in greater depth following a period of background reading and some initial research I think your ideas will come together much more clearly. Can I suggest that you do some thinking and resubmit your proposal form having read through the comments and feedback given so that you are very clear on what you investigating and how you are going to do it.		<b>Not approved:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Teacher signature</b>		

I can see why you are interested in doing this investigation and I think it has the potential to be interesting and relevant however it needs to be more carefully thought through in terms of your plan. Your investigation needs to be clearer in the following areas:

- What age group /s you are investigating and why
- Give a definition of engagement in a local area How will you measure it?
- Is feeling comfortable the same as engagement?
- Identify activities that can be measured and think about how you will do this

**AO comment (Focus):**  
Much of what the teacher has written in the feedback is specific guidance .The student is drawn to very specific wording in the focus and asked to elaborate on this, define the terms and link this to the data collection. The teacher needs to be more of a facilitator, asking questions about the student's investigation so he / she has 'food for thought' and can go away and research further thus retaining independence.

**AO comment (Methodology):**  
The teachers comments are general guidance , whilst they do mention the student's interviews and questionnaires they do not give any suggestions about how to make the data collection methods more manageable or how to refine these.

The teacher has clearly indicated to the student that their data collection is overly ambitious and that he / she needs to be clearer in the methodology and its relevance. The guidance is general as the teacher does not suggest any pathways forward apart from the student doing some reading and giving more depth and detail to the plan. The teacher could perhaps alert the student to planning for their analysis as he / she do not seem clear on this.

It is really important to do an overall plan for your investigation, which you have started to complete already through this proposal form. It all starts from unpacking your title through the key terms used and working out what it is you want to investigate and how you will do this. Sometimes less is more, so good quality, manageable data collection that allows you to go into detail is preferable to collecting lots of data which can be difficult to work out what to use.