

Exemplar Independent Investigation Proposal Form – No.9



AO Comment (Title and hypothesis): Although the title is appropriate there is a lack of coherence to the sub-questions. There are too many strands to the enquiry, not all are relevant to the title itself. The teacher tries to make the student think about the range and order of the sub-questions but offers guidance that is too specific by suggesting re-ordering of questions. Directly suggesting that OS maps be used is also too specific. General advice would be to ask the student to think of ways to accurately locate the study area.

Focusing on a management strategy currently underway is an ambitious choice but you have wisely chosen an accessible, local area to undertake your fieldwork. **There are good opportunities to make effective use of maps to locate your study area.** There will be plenty of opportunities to collect appropriate data if fieldwork visits and data collection strategies are well-planned.

Consider whether you can see a clear narrative through this investigation? Do your sub-questions form a clear and logical sequence? **Could you consider re-ordering your key questions so that (2) follows (3)?** How will you measure the extent to which conservation is being considered within the project? You will need to give this some further thought.

AO Comment (Focus): The teacher succeeds in staying away from guidance that is too specific by discussing ideas already mentioned by the student such as climate change and the ideas of different stakeholders. The advice is given to encourage the student to keep focused on the investigation title throughout.

You show excellent awareness of what data needs to be collected to address each of your sub-questions. There are plentiful opportunities to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. If you are completing interviews, have you thought about whom will you speak to and how you could present and analyse this data effectively? **Could you use one of the coding methods that we have seen during lessons?** Interviews can be difficult to conduct so it would be good to read about how to create effective interview questions. Make sure that you research this thoroughly.

Your plan is well focused on the impacts of human activity on coastal processes and I am sure that you will be able to make good use of your local knowledge to develop your investigation. There is considerable scope for geographical discussion relating to coastal processes and climate change so you will need to be careful to remain focused on your investigation title throughout. You mention the points of view of various stakeholders. Have you considered who the most important stakeholders are and how you might go about securing access to them?

Candidate name.		Candidate number		Year series	
Centre name				Centre number	
Investigation title: How successful will management of The Hinge at East Head be in the prevention of potential floods in West Wittering?			How the title links to specification content. This investigation relates to the impacts of human activity on coastal processes and landforms. The specification asks us to consider both positive and negative impacts and I am hoping that this investigation will allow me to consider potential benefits and costs of the flood prevention scheme.		
Planned investigation hypothesis or question/sub-questions. I have four key questions for this investigation, (1) What is the potential flood risk to West Wittering? (2) How will coastal processes and landforms be affected by the adaptive management strategy? (3) What are the proposed management strategies? (4) To what extent is conservation a consideration with respect to this SSSI?					
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. The Hinge, a shingle spit formed by longshore drift, has been subject to a number of management strategies over recent years – some more successful than others. It is an SSSI, an AONB and is important for recreation and flood prevention. If The Hinge is breached it could have a serious impact on local flooding. I often visit West Wittering on holiday so have good knowledge of the area and the proposed plans. The focus will be how effective the current management strategy will be at preventing flooding in the area in the face of a changing climate, higher tides and more frequent storms. It is likely that there will be disagreement regarding the potential successes and failures of the current adaptive strategy, depending on the points of view of different stakeholders.					
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. Primary data collection will include questionnaires of visitors and a variety of stakeholders. Areas perceived to be under threat will be mapped using secondary data from the Environment Agency. To measure the effect on landforms, I will measure the rate of longshore drift and construct beach profiles and long profiles across the spit. I will interview local stakeholders to find out about their views on the proposed management strategy. Various websites relating to the area will also be considered, as will local media in order to collect secondary data about perception. Collecting data for longshore drift, beach transects and beach profiles will be group data collection activities, all other data collection will be individual.				Individual: <input type="checkbox"/> Group data collection: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher's approval and comments You have chosen an appropriate title and study area for your investigation and show good understanding of the methodologies that you will use to collect and analyse your data. You have the makings of an excellent investigation here so bear in mind some of the points that we have discussed regarding your sub-questions. Some of these are very descriptive in their nature. You will need to do re-consider in order to sharpen the focus of this investigation and ensure that it is manageable for you.				Approved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher signature				Date	

AO Comment (Methodology): The teacher gives advice regarding possible ways in which data collection methods (e.g. interviews) could be enhanced. The suggestion that the student should use particular coding methods to analyse this data is too specific and should have been avoided. Sound general advice is given regarding managing independence within a group work scenario. Students should carefully consider the health and safety implications of any fieldwork undertaken and the teacher is right to remind the student of the importance of undertaking a thorough risk assessment before embarking on fieldwork.

Try to consider what we talked about in class regarding different sampling techniques and how to decide on a sample size that will allow you to analyse your data effectively. If you are collecting this data as a group, make certain that you have agreed on appropriate strategies before venturing into the field - you will need to describe and justify all your data collection methods in your final report and you will have to do this independently. You will also need to give full consideration to a risk assessment when collecting data in a potentially dangerous environment like this. Have you thought about the main characteristics of this risk assessment yet? There is plenty of advice and guidance available on how to undertake fieldwork safely so make sure you read up on this.