

Exemplar Independent Investigation Proposal Form – No.3



AO comment (Title & Hypothesis): This investigation has an interesting people-environment focus, but unfortunately the teacher has missed an opportunity to give important advice about the title and investigation hypothesis. The student may collect a lot of data but without a specific point and the hypothesis or question section doesn't offer any further refinement. It would be better if the teacher guided the student to reflect on the Planned investigation hypothesis or question section and devise a title, hypothesis or question that is testable or answerable and therefore open to evaluation. This is important to reaching the higher levels of the mark scheme.

This is an interesting but ambitious title. It's important you maintain your focus on the hydrological cycle and the costs and benefits of micro-HEP. Your research and access to secondary data will be an important part of the investigation so you need to be confident that what you plan to collect is readily available.

AO Comment (Focus): The student has chosen a theme that is closely linked to the specification content, making relevant connections between two key ideas.

I suggest you tie down your two investigation hypothesis better and consider the implications for the environment in more detail.

So I understand that you're hoping to do this over 2 days of the field-trip, and can see that you have thought about it somewhat, though I am still concerned about investigating the Blencathra site in the time available. How will you ensure that you can collect your primary data in the time available at Blencathra?

Why did you choose these sites since the Lake District National Park has over 50 sites, and also what would your 'short field investigation' include?

I have reservations about your field investigation which needs more thought and planning. However as long as you do not lose focus on the ideas I do not see this as a major hurdle.

Unfortunately I can only make sure what you are doing applies to the specification and that the aims are achievable, which I feel they are as long as the timescales are considered and you have sufficient data from all three sites, as well as past data for comparison and to aid your analysis.

Candidate name		Candidate number	Examination Series
Centre name		Centre number	
Investigation title <i>The development of Micro-HEP stations in the Lake District National Park and the impacts on rivers and the community</i>		How the title links to specification content <i>I'm looking to investigate how human factors affect the hydrological cycle (Key Idea 5.3, p.42), which helps me assess the costs and benefits of an alternative to fossil fuel (Key Idea 6.6, p.48).</i>	
Planned investigation hypothesis or question/sub-questions <i>The development of Micro-HEP schemes is helping to develop areas of Lake District and reduce carbon emissions for the Park. Micro-HEP schemes are a viable option for renewable energy within the upland areas.</i>			
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. <i>That Micro-HEP stations have few potential impacts on river regimes and systems in upland areas and do not impact upon events such as flooding: Firstly they help reduce the use of fossil fuels, unsightly wind turbines and other more intrusive forms of energy, although they still have costs and benefits that need to be explored. The use of HEP allows isolated communities and people develop economically and rely less on alternative forms of power generation including diesel engines and gas canisters.</i>			
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. <i>Mapping HEP stations on an OS map of the lake district National park. Visit several sites to include: Church Beck Coniston, River Liza Ennerdale and Glenderaterra Beck Threlkeld. Photographic evidence of changes. Interview local people about changes, as well as the Lake District National Park on policy and river data. Short field investigation on impacts to river.</i>		Individual: <input type="checkbox"/>	Group data collection: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher's approval and comments <i>Excellent ideas here and the cross-topic nature of your study offers a truly interesting insight into the benefits of HEP in locations that have issues associated with rural isolation or access. I do have concerns about the scope of the study and the sheer scale of your methodology – you should consider carefully whether this is achievable in the time available?</i>		Approved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not approved: <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher signature		Date	

AO comment (Methodology): The teacher is right to ask the student for more information about their planned methodology and by phrasing the feedback as questions they are enabling the student to independently respond and decide the best course of action. There may be a concern that the student intends to collect mainly secondary data. The short field investigation is somewhat ambiguous and needs greater clarity. The teacher correctly asks for more information about the practicalities of carrying out the programme of data collection within the time available and queries whether the scope of the study is too broad and unrealistic.