

Exemplar Independent Investigation Proposal Form – No.6



AO comment (Title):

The teachers' comment begins and ends with general guidance however the section highlighted in red is specific guidance. Here the teacher is directing the student towards specific wording in their title and giving them a clear suggestion about what to consider.

Your title has a clear location for fieldwork however will you look at the whole of Sheringham? You will need to have a clear idea what you mean by 'sufficiently resilient to coastal erosion' as you plan your investigation and break your title down further. In using the word sufficiently **you will need to find a way to measure this** so that you can make a judgement as you gather evidence.

Your investigation has definite links to the specification but it would be better explained in your own words as well as the specification sections identified.

Your focus is generally fine although I do think it could be a bit clearer as you are potentially looking at a lot. As you are reading around this topic revisit this section and think through what it is you want to look at and what data you are going to collect to explore this.

AO comment (Focus):

The teacher's guidance is general and encourages the student to continue his / her thinking and reflection as they become more 'expert' in their topic area.

You have listed a wide range of primary data collection techniques - however I am not sure all of them are relevant for your title and sub-hypotheses.

Whilst you have clearly considered primary and secondary data, you have not indicated qualitative / quantitative techniques. You have mentioned measuring the strength of coastal defences – **don't forget to look up Hudson's equation and collect data so that you can calculate the resilience of the rock armour.**

Due to the type of fieldwork you are doing, you will need to carry out a risk assessment.

It is important with your methodology to think about how you will analyse the data collected to ensure it is manageable and relevant.

Candidate name		Centre name		Centre number	
Investigation title The coastal management strategies at Sheringham are sufficiently resilient to coastal erosion.		How the title links to specification content 2.a. influence of geomorphic processes at the coast 4.a. coastal landscape that's being managed, management strategy being implemented and the reason for it			
Planned investigation hypothesis or question/sub-questions My primary data collection will take place at the coast in Sheringham, Norfolk. This stretch of coastline in North Norfolk, has a number of coastal management techniques being used and it is a safe and accessible area to collect my data.					
Sub-questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How effective are current coastal management strategies in preventing erosion? How much coastal erosion has taken place at Sheringham over the last 50 years? How have the coastal management techniques slowed down coastal erosion in Sheringham? 					
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. Sheringham suffers from serious erosion and as this area has a strong local community and is an important tourist area there have been a number of management strategies put in place such as a sea wall, rock armour and groynes. I am interested to find out if the coastal management strategies are working and stopping erosion on this stretch of coastline.					
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.				Individual: <input type="checkbox"/> Group data collection: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Primary data collection techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beach width and angle Wave height and energy (frequency) Annotated field sketches of cliffs, beach and coastal defences Cost benefit analysis Measure the strength of the coastal defences Interview local council / Environment Agency to discuss coastal erosion and management strategies 					
Secondary data collection techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates of erosion at Sheringham for the last 50 years Maps of coastal management strategies / plans Local council coastal defence plans / shoreline management plans 					
Teacher's approval and comments You have an interesting and valuable investigation outlined here. You have some terminology in the title e.g. 'sufficiently resilient' that you need to have a clear understanding of from your reading as this will help you refine your data collection techniques. It is not about the volume of data you collect but the skill in deciding what to collect and why so that your investigation is manageable in the time you have available. Make sure you get to know the 'geography' of Sheringham as this will help you make sense of your findings from primary data collection.				Approved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher signature					

AO comment (Methodology):

The teacher has given significant feedback in this section suggesting that the student needs to be clear on what they are collecting. Particular aspects of the teacher's feedback go beyond general guidance (highlighted in red) where he / she directs the student to a particular approach e.g. Hudson's equation. The teacher alerts the student to the lack of focus on quantitative / qualitative techniques without giving specific guidance on his / her listed techniques.

Your investigation needs careful planning and this proposal form helps to think through the initial stages. You need to go back to your title and focus ensuring that you know how your investigation will break down and what it is you are looking for. Think about what data is most important so that you do not end up collecting too much. The most effective way is to plan what you will collect, how it will be collected and how the data will be analysed.

AO comment (planned investigation):

The teachers comment begins as general guidance and the question at the end of the first paragraph gives students an opportunity to reflect. The guidance becomes specific as the teacher suggests a structure / information to be included in the students' introduction. Whilst the teachers guidance on safety is specific, this is essential as part of the risk assessment process.

You have potentially identified a large area of coast for your primary data collection, think about what is manageable in the time period you have available and where exactly you will collect your data and why?

It is positive that you have considered safety when planning your investigation. This will however need further consideration by looking in more detail at potential risks e.g. tide times, unstable surfaces (cliffs) and slipping risk (rocks).

With your sub-questions, these should be testable questions which enable you to break your title down. Could some of these **be included in your introduction to set the scene of your investigation?**