

Exemplar Independent Investigation Proposal Form – No.2



AO comment (Title):

The first and last sentence in the teachers comments are general guidance as the student is encouraged to be clear in their wording. The targeted nature of the questions picking up on individual wording in the title begins to give much more directed guidance however this does not reword the title or take any independence away from the student. What it does encourage, is for the student to plan.

Your title on initial reading seems straightforward however as you read around this topic it will help you to have a clear focus and route for your investigation. What do you mean by energy efficiency? Think about the wording of your title – what exactly is it you are going to be investigating?

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.

I am pleased to see your data collection is at a local level. Why have you chosen to look at energy efficiency? How does this fit with the topic in the specification? **You could link this to climate change in your introduction.**

Ensure that you are careful and consistent with wording e.g. resident / homeowner.

Do you have a clear idea, what information / data you would collect for each of these sub-hypotheses?

You have discussed two main primary data collection techniques; do you think this will provide sufficient information / data to answer your title?

Sampling needs to be more explicitly discussed so that you are clear how you will 'test' your data collection techniques. What is it you want to find out and how will this help to answer your title?

The questionnaire per household is not manageable. This has the potential to generate too much data for analysis, how will you deal with this?

Have you provisionally looked at the secondary data you mention here? Is this information available?

AO comment (Focus):

The teacher has given the student general guidance on the focus of their investigation. The teacher is not giving specific guidance as they are re-quoting what the student has included in their title. This indicates to the student that their focus is perhaps too vague and they need to think about how their methodology and data collection will provide them with enough evidence to answer their title.

I think you need to carefully reflect on your investigation focus to ensure it will actually provide you with enough evidence to answer your question. As you have stated 'to what extent' in your title you will need to make a value judgment on this, so think about this in selecting your data collection techniques.

AO comment (Teachers approval):

The teacher's comment indicates areas of the proposal form that the student needs to revisit and 'refine' or 'sharpen' therefore encouraging them to take ownership. The student needs to plan carefully and the teacher's comments can be used and critically reflected on in the students' evaluation. This can show how their investigation evolved as the student became more 'expert' in their topic area. The teacher has given specific guidance (in red) as the student has been directed to climate change and linking their investigation to this topic area.

Centre name		Centre number
Investigation title	How the title links to specification content	
To what extent have homeowners in Victoria Road, Wrexham made their homes more energy efficient?	4.c mitigation strategies to cut global greenhouse gases including: energy efficiency and conservation 4.c adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerability of human populations at risk: including what future homes and transport will look like following adaptation throughout the 21 st century.	
Planned investigation hypothesis or question/sub-questions		
I am looking to do my primary data collection at a local level, specifically on Victoria Road in Wrexham. I want to look specifically at how people have adapted their homes to make them more energy efficient such as Smart Metres, loft insulation, light bulbs, double glazing etc.		
Sub-hypotheses		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loft insulation is the most effective strategy for energy efficiency in the home. Individual behaviour influences energy efficiency more than expensive strategies. Local funding positively encourages people to make their homes more energy efficient. 		
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 want to examine how individual homeowners have made their homes more energy efficient, either by what they have done physically to their home or by their behaviours e.g. turning lights off. I have chosen my local area, the street I live on as some people have started to modify their homes and I wanted to look at why, how much this costs and whether people's behaviour has changed in their own home and if so why?		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To collect qualitative primary data for my investigation I plan to interview homeowners in my street, 6 households in total as I think this will represent a sufficient sample to show what people have done or not done to make their homes more energy efficient and the reasons for this. I want to do semi-structured interviews and I will test my questions on two people to ensure they are clear and I will make any changes to these from feedback. I will look at homeowners who have modified their homes and those that haven't to ensure there is no bias in my data. I am planning to give each household in my street a questionnaire to complete about their homes and I am looking to use both open questions and closed questions where the data could be tabulated, graphed and analysed in more of a quantitative style.	Group data collection:	<input type="checkbox"/>
For secondary data I will look at local government strategies on energy efficiency and the funding available to help homeowners. I will research people's electricity usage (quantitative data) before and after they make their homes more energy efficient.	Approved:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher's approval and comments	Not approved:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your investigation is clearly linked to the specification however it would be good to see it embedded in a strong geographical context such as climate change: make sure you do some reading. You have chosen an appropriate scale for data collection and with a little refinement and sharpening up in your methodology to include sampling you have a potentially 'rich' source of local information.	Date	
Teacher signature		

AO comment (Methodology):

The teachers' guidance is general as they have used a series of questions to encourage the student to reflect on their ideas / plans. Whilst there is a direct reference to sampling the teachers comment prompts the student to go back and independently decide on how to refine their techniques rather than telling them specifically what to do for each one. The teacher gives specific guidance in red as he / she directs the student away from conducting a questionnaire per household, due to the volume of data this could potentially generate.

Your investigation needs careful planning and this proposal form helps to think through the initial stages. You need to go back to your plan 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 and most tightly linked to your title and the most effective ways to collect this.