**Assessment Type 2: Fieldwork Report**

**Student Guide to Fieldwork Planning**

This document is designed to help you to choose a manageable fieldwork topic and design an appropriate hypothesis or inquiry question. Your answers to the following questions will help you to select fieldwork techniques that generate enough varied data for you to analyse, interpret and present in your fieldwork report.

There are some general considerations you should think about before planning and carrying out your fieldwork, including:

* how much time you will need to set aside for data collection
* transport – do you have access to a car or will you need to use public transport
* safety – is there any risk attached to your fieldwork topic or location.

**Planning your fieldwork**

1 Start with the big ideas:

* what topics are you interested in?
* what can you investigate in the local area?

2 Narrow your topic to an inquiry question or hypothesis (a theory or relationship you can test):

3 Select your fieldwork location or locations

* identify suitable maps, paper, GIS, Google Earth
* select your area using grid references, latitudes and longitudes
* fieldwork should have a spatial element, best demonstrated using annotated maps showing details of your location(s)

**Selecting fieldwork techniques**

Think about the size of your fieldwork area. Can you investigate and compare elements of your fieldwork over different locations or time?

What techniques can you use?

* observing and recording
* photographs and annotated sketches
* counting – litter, traffic
* measuring – soil pH, soil moisture content, remember some of your samples may need testing back at school
* survey techniques – Environmental Quality Index, bi-polar analysis
* interviews and questionnaires
* secondary resources.

**Visiting your fieldwork location**

Visit your fieldwork area:

* what are the features of the physical and built environment?
* are there any particularly interesting features that could be a focus for your fieldwork?
* what inquiry questions could you ask?
* Could you prove/disprove your hypothesis?

**Analysis**

Before you start your fieldwork it is worthwhile giving some consideration to what to do with your data once you have collected it. You need to work out if the data you intend to collect is relevant to your fieldwork and if it will help you to answer your inquiry questions and prove or disprove your hypothesis.

In order to describe, analyse, explain and present your fieldwork, consider the following questions:

* are there any issues at your fieldwork location?
* are there conflicts of interest?
* is there a temporal perspective to the fieldwork, have there been changes over time and can you record changes over time in your fieldwork?
* what primary data will you collect?
* who might you interview or survey?
* what secondary data is available for your location – no Wikipedia
* what conclusions could you draw from the data you collect?

**Other useful tips**

* visit your site(s) more than once
* keep a fieldwork journal or log book to record:
  + the fieldwork techniques you use
  + your measurements, counts, and sketches
  + survey results
* remember plastic bags or containers to transport samples if you need to test them back at school (e.g. soil, water)
* take somebody with you and remember a mobile phone every time you visit your fieldwork site.

**Bibliography**

Select a method of referencing and use it and footnotes consistently throughout your fieldwork report.

2000 words maximum.