**Stage 1 Outdoor Education**

**AT2: Experiences in Natural Environments**

**Focus Area: Outdoor Skills, Leadership and Social**

***“Learning without reflection is a waste. Reflection without learning is dangerous” (Confucius)***

**Task Description:**

Students will prepare for and undertake a number of experiences in natural environments. During this time, they will plan, apply and develop their practical outdoor skills and work with others in natural outdoor environments. Students are expected to gather information, data, and notes to capture thoughts, reflections, feelings, and observations that can be used to critically reflect and evaluate the development and application of their practical skills, personal connections with nature and with others.

For your report, consider the following aspects:

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| **Specific Features** | ***Aspects to consider*** | ***Reflective questions*** |
| **Reflective Practice of Personal Experiences** | *Appreciation of nature -* What did you enjoy?  *Connection with nature –* What did you see and feel?  *Responsible action – How did I help nature and support others to as well?*  *Exploration – What were the biggest challenges*?  *Self-reflection – How did you feel in general? – why, when and where?*  Problem solving - *How did you deal with problems that arose?* | Do I bring additional stress upon myself? If so, how can I decrease or eliminate it?  What have you learnt about yourself during the experience?  How did the conditions compare to your previous experience? Did these have an impact?  What was my best moment today and how can I have more moments like it? |
| **Reflective Practice of Social Skills** | *Communication – How did your presentation go?*  *Decision making – When did you have to do this? Was it effective?*  *Problem solving – What issues arose with the group? How did you resolve?*  *Teamwork – What did you do together? What was your role?*  Support – How and when did you help others? | *Have I done enough to foster a productive relationship with my peers?*  *When you worked with other students on this expedition, describe that experience and how you think it went.*  *How well did I communicate with others today and how can I do this better?*  *How did I support my peers today and how will I continue to do so?* |
| **Evaluation & Reflective Practice of the Development of Practical Outdoor Skills** | *Planning – Document / record pre trip actions to be prepared.*  *Campcraft – Presentation of research*  *Leadership – preparation to support others with their practical skills*  *Specific activity – Research of skill performance indicators*  *Skill - What does top performance look like, what is your current skill level?* | *What minor and/or major changes can I make to my planning in order to directly increase performance?*  *What do you think you might do differently if you tried this expedition again?*  *What new skills or knowledge did you try out during this project?*  *What else could you find out about the skill you are learning/applying?* |
| **Evaluation & Reflective Practice of the Application of Practical Outdoor Skills** | *Planning – What worked and/or needed to be changed?*  *Campcraft – Presentation, demonstration and reflection*  *Leadership – Did you lead others, what qualities helped?*  *Specific activity – How did your performance compare to high level?*  *Skills – Do, Reflect, Apply – gather and use feedback.* | *How did your application of the skills compare to your understanding of what a high level of skill represents?*  *How did your application of the skills compare to others?*  *How did your peers/teachers assess your skills?*  *What aspects will you focus on or change next time?*  *How will I use what I've learned in the future?* |

**Evidence to support application, development, evaluation, and reflective practice.**

* Pre-trip research and readings.
* Planning – notes, pictures, research of planning/preparation for practical outdoor skills.
* Practical performance - skills audits, peer-, self- and teacher- assessments, video / photos, drawings, audio recordings, journals, and observations.
* Reflections - Daily journal or recordings of personal experiences, feelings, use and development of social skills, development of practical skills, self-assessments, and notes from debriefs or class discussions etc

**Submission Information:**

* The presentation should be a **maximum of 1100 words written or 7 minutes if oral or multimodal.**
* Include relevant images, evidence etc
* Include a reference list (not included in word count)

**Assessment:**

Evaluation and Reflective Practice (ER1&2)

* Reflective practice of personal experiences and social skills in a natural environment.
* Evaluation and reflective practice of the development and application of practical outdoor skills.

|  | Evaluation and Reflective Practice |
| --- | --- |
| A | Astute reflective practice of personal experiences and social skills in a natural environment.  Astute evaluation and critically reflective practice of the development and application of practical outdoor skills. |
| B | Well-considered reflective practice of personal experiences and social skills in a natural environment.  Well-considered evaluation and mostly critically reflective practice of the development and application of practical outdoor skills. |
| C | Considered reflective practice of personal experiences and social skills in a natural environment.  Considered evaluation and reflective practice of the development and application of practical outdoor skills. |
| D | Some description of reflective practice of personal experiences and social skills in a natural environment.  Basic reflective practice of the development and application of practical outdoor skills. |
| E | Attempted description of reflective practice of personal experiences and/or social skills in a natural environment.  Attempted description of reflective practice of the development and application of practical outdoor skills. |

**Key Performance Indicators**

* appropriate terminology
* evidence of planning before the expeditions and reflection on its effectiveness
* demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the personal and practical skills being developed
* evidence of annotated photographs, journal entries, skill audits, teacher feedback and comments where relevant
* analysis and reflection on performance of identified skills, and where to next.

**Staff Marking Guide**

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| **ER1 - Reflective practice of personal experiences and social skills in a natural environment.** | **Key points** |
| **Personal Experiences**  *(Appreciation of nature, Connection with nature, Responsible action, Exploration, Self-reflection)* | *Do they describe nature and what they enjoy about?*  *Is there mention of feelings and connection to experience?*  *Do they connect action and consequences?*  *Do they show care and appreciation for natural environments?* |
| **Social Skills**  *(Communication, Decision making, Problem solving, Teamwork,* Support) | *Identify and demonstrate clear communication*  *Can they work through problems and identify good process?*  *Reflection on decision making, honest and robust, future ideas?*  *Reflection on their contributions and benefit to group / experience* |
| **ER2 - Evaluation and reflective practice of the development and application of practical outdoor skills.** | **Key points** |
| **Evaluation of Skill Development**  *(Planning, Campcraft, Leadership, Specific activity skills)* | *Identify key indicators of high performance*  *Identify indicators within their performance*  *Identify strategies for improvement.*  *Evaluate their development of skill indicators* |
| **Evaluation of Skill application**  *(Planning, Campcraft, Leadership, Specific activity skills)* | *Demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of skill*  *Able to perform skill in variety of situations*  *Can work on areas in need of development and show progress*  *Evaluate their performance against high performance* |
| **Reflection on Skill Development and Application**  *(Planning, Campcraft, Leadership, Specific activity skills)* | *Can they make honest judgments on performance?*  *Can they connect performance, practice, feedback to improvement?*  *Can they make suggestions for the future based on this experience?* |