**A Geographical Enquiry**

As part of your A level you will be expected to complete a 4,000-word independent research project (NEA) which accounts for 20% of your overall grade. In preparation for that you will need to complete some fieldwork and write up your enquiry as a short report. (NB You do not have to write 4,000 words this time!)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Geographical Enquiry Process** | **Safety First** |
| Introduction and PlanningMethods of collecting dataData presentation and AnalysisConclusionEvaluation | * Never go to fieldwork locations alone
* Always tell your parents/carers where you are going and what time you will be back
* Always take your mobile phone; check it has plenty of battery and you have signal
* Maintain a 2m distance and uphold other CV-19 safety advice
* Have general safety awareness; cross roads carefully, don’t approach strangers, etc.
* Have suitable footwear for the terrain
* Have suitable clothing for the weather (remember it is very changeable!)
 |

The table below gives more guidance on what to include in each stage of the enquiry process.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Introduction | * What is your aim (the title) and hypothesis (prediction of results)?
* What are the key geographical words and concepts you know which link to this project?
* Where will you do your research? (map/photo of location?)
 |
| Method | * How did you collect your data? (each method needs a step by step guide so another person could copy your research – like a recipe for cooking!)
* Did you need any equipment or technology to help you?
* Were there any problems doing your research? Were you able to solve them?
 |
| Data Presentation | * Each piece of data collected needs to be presented - try to have a range of ideas!
* Graphs – bar, pie, line, compound bar, scattergraph etc
* Photos/sketches - make sure you annotate the key geography shown
* Maps – data can be added to maps e.g. proportional circles
 |
| Data Analysis | * Describe what the data shows
* Explain why you think that result occurred
 |
| Conclusion | * Summarise your main findings (include data to support the statement)
* State whether your hypothesis was right or wrong
 |
| Evaluation | * Say what you did well in your research and what wasn’t as good
* Suggest improvements if you were to repeat the work
 |

Below are several ideas for titles; choose **one** that is **achievable in lockdown conditions**! If you have a suggestion for your own title, or wish to add/remove ideas for the existing titles, please email Mrs Leeman to check suitability before you start your research.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Enquiry Title | What could you actually measure? | Which methods could be useful? |
| How do two stretches of beach compare? | * Whether the waves are constructive or destructive
* The speed and direction of longshore drift
* Is there evidence of erosion and/or deposition?
 | * Wave Count
* LSD; measure distance & direction a float moves
* Visual observation/ photographs
 |
| What is the quality of the environment like in …. (e.g. Your street, local park etc) | * How much people have affected the environment?
* How much pollution is in this location?
* What might be causing the pollution?
 | * Environmental Quality Survey/Assessment
* Air quality survey/noise level survey/Litter survey
* Traffic count/ land use survey
 |
| To what extent does this area (named small area) need to be regenerated? | * Is the housing in the area of a good enough standard?
* Is there evidence the area is already being improved?
* Is the area run down?
 | * Housing quality survey
* Gentrification survey
* Graffiti survey/ EQA /visual observation/ photographs
 |
| What is the perception of this place? (named small area) | * How people feel when they are there
* The words people use to describe it
* The activities people do there
* Is this a pleasant place to be?
 | * Mood map
* Epitome word
* Activity map
* Bi-polar assessment
 |
| How do retail area A and B compare? (name your chosen areas e.g. Peterborough city centre/ Serpentine Green/ Brotherhood/ Stamford /Oundle etc) | * How many people use this shopping area? (Lockdown will obviously affect these results!)
* Which types of shops are provided?
* Which types of shops are most popular?
* Do people like using this space?
* Are there mostly chain stores or independent businesses?
 | * Pedestrian count/ car park survey
* Retail mapping/land use
* Footfall / questionnaire
* Mood map / photographs
* Clone town survey
 |

These websites will give you more guidance on fieldwork methods and ways to present your data.

<https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=882a6e79-5e28-4667-a753-17d26cec8c19&lang=en-GB> (an amazing step by step guide on writing an NEA from the RGS)

<https://www.geography-fieldwork.org/a-level/before-starting/#primary-nav>

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FTeaching-and-learning-materials> (examples of students finished NEA work for our exam board)

<https://www.geographyfieldworkacademy.co.uk/> (the GeogIT app is highly recommended as it will explain methods, allow you to collect data on your phone, help with data presentation etc. Currently £0.99)

**If you have any questions, please email Mrs Leeman (kxl@tda.education).**