

Geography Coursework

Edexcel GCSE Geography Specification A

Firstly you need to decide which area of geography you want to focus on:

- Human

eg:

CBD studies of Teignmouth or Exmouth

or compare the two

tourism in somewhere like Widecombe which is what we geographers call a "honeypot".

Does St Thomas shopping centre have a bigger sphere of influence than Topsham Shopping centre. (The sphere of influence in this context is the area where people live who are prepared to shop at a certain place)

- Physical

eg:

coastal erosion, the natural effects of long-shore-drift in the formation of Dawlish Warren.

The changing shape of a lower river.

- Environmental

eg:

coastal erosion

sea defences and the big debate: Should these buildings be saved?

ecosystems study of Woodbury Common

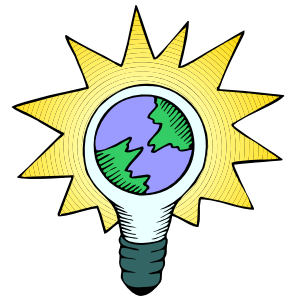
how people have interfered with the Teign River

Choose the one you are most interested in because you will live, eat, sleep and breathe your coursework over the term.

1. Your project must be based on direct fieldwork experience
2. Secondary source material may be used also.
3. Investigations should focus on one of the following:
 - a. Question
 - b. Relationship
 - c. An Issue
 - d. Problem
 - e. Testing a hypothesis

Examples:

- Comparisons of landforms in contrasting parts of the river's profile.
- The sighting of recycling facilities.
- The sphere of influence of a Leisure centre
- Evaluation of geomorphological processes in relation to selected coastal landforms.
- Local problems of pollution in the rural or urban areas.
- The use & abuse of a river floodplain.
- Pedestrian/traffic flows in contrasting urban zones.
- Local/regional shopping hierarchies.
- An urban microclimate.
- A local woodland ecosystem.

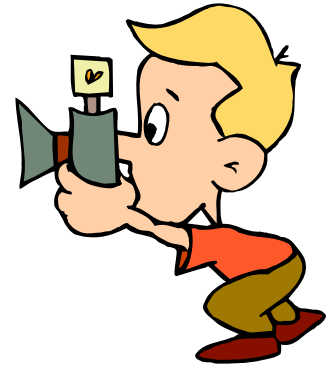


4. The investigation must be analytical & supported by reasoned arguments.
5. Purely descriptive works are not appropriate.
6. Actual coursework proposals, need to be approved by the examining board, so may be subject to adaptations.

Guidelines

Your investigation will include:

1. 2,500 to 3,000 words of text, best word processed
2. Maps
3. Diagrams
4. Tables
5. Photographs
6. Possibly (but not essential, & of questionable use in GCSE's):
 - a. Videos
 - b. Audio tapes
 - c. Other Media



This will be presented on:

1. A4 paper
2. Secured in simple light weight folder

Front cover must have:

1. Centre name: 'Magdalen Court School'
2. Your full name

Timescale

Title must be put forward ASAP as a substantial input will be required during the Summer Hols. The first ½ of the Autumn term will be devoted to completing this coursework. The school is organising 2 field trips: Dawlish Warren & Haytor, which can be used for the project or as a guide to the type of data collection required for the projects.



Deadlines:

The following need to be completed by:

Introduction & Aims	= 13 th June 2005
Planning & Organisation	= 20 th June 2005
Data collection	= Started by end of Summer term 2005
Data Presentation	= 5 weeks into the Autumn term
Data Analysis & Interp.	= 6 weeks into the Autumn term
Conclusion & Eval. com.	= Before ½ term
Completed project handed in for feedback	= 1 st day back after ½ term
Final draft handed in	= 2 nd week after ½ term

Pupils failing to meet these deadlines will be held back 1hr after school each day until the work is completed. The coursework MUST be completed by the end of the Autumn ½ term 2003.

Geography Coursework Requirements & Marking Scheme

A. Introduction, Aim & Objectives (8 Marks)

- a. Introduce the broad purpose of the study
- b. Refer to the questions, problems, hypotheses being investigated
- c. Outline the general theory which underpins the investigation
- d. Provide a sufficient general background (such as location map)

B. Data Collection & Recording (12 marks)

- a. Describe, explain & justify the methods used to collect the data
- b. State the nature of the information/data required
- c. Show evidence of the data collected in the form of tables etc.
- d. Pass comment upon any problems encountered & what attempts were made to overcome

C. Data Presentation (12 marks)

- a. Select materials/data for presentation/portrayal which is relevant to the stated intention of the study.
- b. Select appropriate presentation techniques for the data gathered and the purpose of the enquiry.
- c. Ensure that a suitable variety and range of techniques are used.
- d. Demonstrate the skills of the candidate in neatly and correctly using the presentational techniques of the study.

D. Data Analysis and Interpretation (10 marks)

- a. Description is made about what the data shows in its presentational form.
- b. Analytical comment is made upon the represented data which allows the candidate to take the investigation further.
- c. As well as making descriptive and explanatory comments about particular sets of data, the candidate is able to compare the results of different sets of data and make appropriate observations.
- d. In studies where several exercises have been undertaken and different types of data used, the candidate is able to make overall analytical comments in the light of the aim of the whole enquiry.

E. Conclusions and Evaluation (10 marks)

- a. Return to original aim/objectives and discuss the extent to which they have been fulfilled.
- b. Summarise and draw the threads together and emphasise the essential unity of the whole study.
- c. Show an appreciation and awareness of the limitations of the study – its limited and biased database and, where relevant, an reference to the values and attitudes of the people involved.
- d. Contain evaluative comments in the light of the whole study, suggesting how the study could be improved or taken further or lead to other studies with differing emphasis.

F. Planning and Organisation (8 marks)

- a. Demonstrate an overall organisation and integration of all material in relation to the original intention of the study.
- b. Include appropriate pagination, contents, bibliography, titles, headings and appropriate cross-referencing so that the piece of work can be read and understood with ease by others.