Higher Assignment

**Step 1- Identify a geographical topic or issue to investigate**

1. Pick a relevant topic which allows you to:

* Carry out research
* Show your knowledge and understanding of the topic/issue
* Use your skills to analyse the topic/issue
* Reach a conclusion about the topic/issue

1. State your hypothesis.

**Step 2-Plan out the structure of your assignment.**

It should be in the form of a scientific and geographical research project.

* Ensure you use geographical terminology and organise your project in a logical order (e.g. Introduction, Methods, Results, Analysis, and Conclusion).
* You should make use of headings, to organise the main sections of your assignment.

**Step 3- Draw on knowledge and understanding of the geographical topic or issue**

Use the success criteria table to help you, this section is worth *8 marks*. Think about including the following:-

* A map showing your research area’s location within Scotland- remember to include a title for your map
* Use your class notes, research, field data and secondary sources. Do background reading/research on your topic/issue – use the internet & textbooks (make up a bibliography). Think about what you would expect to find out.
* Explain the background/context of the topic/issue within the context of Geography.
* Find out ‘geographers’ theories on your topic/issue (quote some of these on your processed information sheets)

**Step 4-Methodology: Describe two or more research methods you used to collect information about your topic or issue commenting on their effectiveness.**

For *6 marks,* you need to:-

* Describe how you carried the research method out, showing detailed knowledge of Geographical methods and techniques.
* Explain what you were hoping to find out.
* Explain why this method was a good technique.
* Explain any limitations of the gathering techniques.
* Explain how you could have improved your research methods.

Your methods could include:-:

* River fieldwork: measuring the depth, width, bedload shape, size, velocity.
* Urban fieldwork: interviewing, questionnaires, traffic/pedestrian counts, land use surveys, environmental quality surveys, and litter or pollution surveys.
* You could also take photographs, draw field sketches, etc.
* Secondary research might include gathering information from maps, websites, textbooks, etc.- make sure that you keep a note of all sources of secondary information that you use.

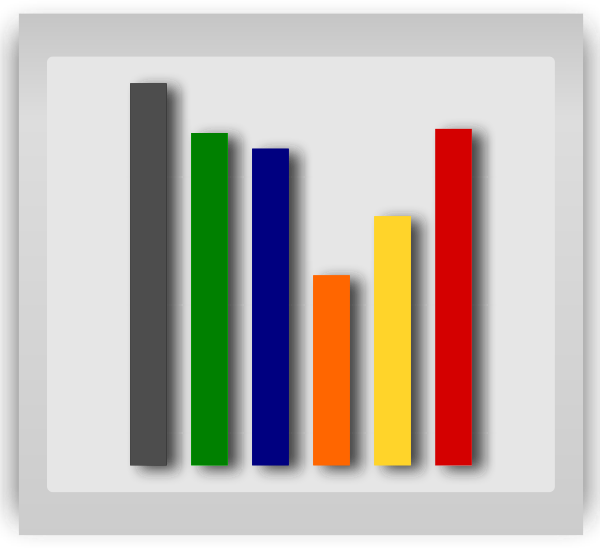
Use the structure below to ensure you include all of the above

**Research methods**

* Name **Research method 1**.
* Describe how you carried out this method (step by step instructions)
  + When did you do it?
  + Where did you do it? (refer to map)
  + How did you do it? (step by step instructions)
* Why did you use this method?
* How reliable was this method?
* Were there any problems with this research method?
* How useful was this research method in helping you find out appropriate information about your topic/issue?
* Repeat for: **Research method 2, Research method 3 and Research method 4**

**Step 5- Results: You should produce a variety of graphs and other forms of processed information expected at Higher level to refer to throughout your results and analysis.** These should be clearly titled/labelled to allow you to make clear references to your processed data within the body of your assignment. You will place this processed information onto an A4 sheet of paper which you will be allowed to take into the Assignment Exam with you for reference. Your processed information itself will not be assessed, but your ability to analyse your processed information and identify relationships will be assessed with *4 marks* available for this section. You should ensure that your processed information is of a high standard as the clearer and more sophisticated your processed information is, the easier it will be for you to analyse it, allowing you to produce an assignment of the highest standard possible.

Your A4 sheet of processed information can include the following:

* Evidence or data from primary or secondary research
* Bullet points and headings
* Mind maps
* Statistical, graphical or numerical data,
* Data collected from fieldwork,
* Summary notes/quotes from sources
* Information extracted from maps
* Survey results
* Interview questions and/or answers
* Questionnaire and/or results
* Details of internet search engine results
* Newspaper article or extracts
* Summary notes taken from a visit or talk
* Or summary notes taken from a written or audio visual source.

**Step 6- Analysis: You should use your knowledge and understanding of Geography to analyse your processed data.** Try to identify relevant relationships within your data (*6 marks*).

Describe in detail what you have found out from each research method.

Analyse what your findings prove (for each research method) – what does the information that you have found mean?

You must clearly show **at least two** of the following;-

* Make links or comparisons between different areas.
* Links between component(s) and related concepts
* similarities and differences
* consistency and inconsistency
* different views/interpretations
* possible consequences/implications
* relative importance of components
* understanding of an underlying order or structure

Discuss possible consequences of your findings.

(1 mark will be awarded for each comment that analyses separate factors. A maximum of 4 marks will be awarded for **detailed** analysis of one factor)

**You must include reference to the Processed Information**

1. Make reference to the processed information at least 4 times in order to support your analysis.

**Step 7-Conclusion.**

**Here, you will use your knowledge and understanding of the topic as well as your analysis to make an overall judgement about a topic or issue- answer your research question!** Explain, in detail, the main findings of your research. What conclusion have you reached about your topic or issue?

You should give a detailed summary of your findings and make a detailed overall judgement.

It is often good to prove/disprove your hypothesis/title or answer your research question within this section. (2 marks)

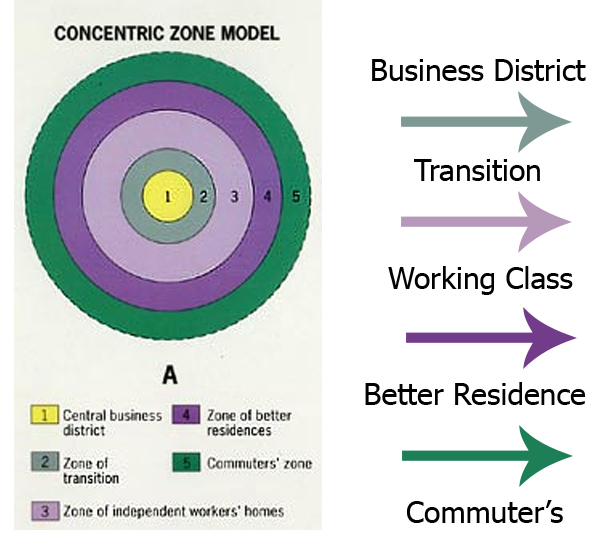
**Communication: 4 marks**

1. How well have you structured your report?
2. Have you used headings & sub-headings to organise the main sections of your report?
3. Have you used geographical terminology appropriately throughout your report?
4. Have you used diagrams/graphs/tables to support your explanations or analysis?
5. Have you used a logical narrative/discussion throughout which leads to a conclusion?

Make full use of the summarised success criteria on the following page when planning and constructing your assignment.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Success Criteria for Higher Assignment** | | | |
| **Unit Outcomes Assessed** | **Section** | **Suggestions** | **Mark** |
|  | Title | Pick at least one of the topics to research or come up with your own suitable research topic. |  |
| **HE 1.1-** Identifying suitable sources of information. | Introduction | Drawing on knowledge and understanding of the geographical topic or issue:  You should explain the topic, giving background information to set the scene and explain the importance of your topic. You might refer to processes, viewpoints, consequences, causes, etc and should use your geographical vocabulary. If using any secondary sources within this section, try to reference them within your text but the main aspect of this section is for you to demonstrate a deep knowledge and understanding of your topic area. | 8 |
| **HE 1.1-** Identifying suitable sources of information.  **HE 1.2**- Collecting information in at least two ways. | Methodology | Carry out research on a geographical topic or issue: in your report, you should show detailed knowledge of the research methods you have used and/or evaluate the usefulness/reliability of your methods.  Your research methods could include primary research where you gather evidence yourself or secondary research where the data has been gathered by someone else.  When evaluating the usefulness/ reliability of the methods, you should think about sample size, sampling strategy, time of day or day of the week that you conducted your research, weather, drawbacks of instruments used, advantages and disadvantages of the techniques. | 6 |
| **HE 1.3**- Processing information using a range of techniques.  **GI 1.1-**Interpreting information from at least two sources. | Results | Use of and reference to processed information:  You should process all of the data you have gathered. Your processed information might include:  Annotated field sketches, annotated photographs, land use maps, choropleth or isoline maps, graphs, calculations, diagrams, statistical tables, extracts from interviews or articles, questionnaire results, cross sections, transects, etc.  You should label your processed information and refer to it throughout your results and analysis, using your knowledge and understanding of the topic to support your analysis. | 4 |
| **GI 1.2-** Analysing a range of numerical and graphical information.  **HE 1.4-** Analysing geographical information by identifying links, similarities.  **GI 1.3-** Synthesising information from a range of numerical and graphical information | Analysis | Analysing information: You should identify key information and links within the data. You may refer to your knowledge and understanding, research theories, etc. It is important that you include at least two of the following:  Links between different components, the whole or concepts, similarities and contradictions, consistency and inconsistency, different views/interpretations, possible consequences/implications, relative importance of components. You will consider physical, human, local, global economic or environmental impact. | 6 |
| **GI 1.4-** Reaching a conclusion based on evidence about a complex issue. | Conclusion | Reaching an overall conclusion, supported by a range of evidence: you should make an overall judgement about the topic or a decision about the topic. | 2 |
|  | Overall structure and presentation | Communicating information: You should structure your report carefully, use geographical terminology appropriately, use diagrams to support explanation/analysis, organise your findings in a logical order, reaching a conclusion. | 4 |

**Processed Information Sheets**

**Diagram 1 – Burgess Concentric Zone Model**

**Traffic Data – hourly flow**

**Graph 1**

**Index of Traffic Volume and Calculation of Saturation of traffic volume tables**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Road** | **Saturation Volume (in volume points per hour)** |
| Ordinary 2 lane road | 750 |
| 3 land road | 1400 |
| Dual carriageway | 3000 |
| Motorway | 6000 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group | Vehicle Type | Worth | Bailleston | Dennistoun |
| 1 | Bicycles | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Motorbikes | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | Cars | 2 | 420 | 750 |
| 4 | Vans/Buses | 4 | 60 | 600 |
| 5 | HGV | 6 | 60 | 600 |

**Graph 2**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  |
| Poor Gardens & Landscaping | **X** |  |  | **X** |  | Good Gardens & Landscaping |
| High storey buildings |  | **X** |  | **X** |  | Low storey buildings |
| High density housing |  | **X** |  | **X** |  | Low density housing |
| Lots of Pollution |  | **X** | **X** |  |  | No pollution |
| Lots of Noise |  | **X** | **X** |  |  | No noise |
| Lots of vandalism |  | **X** |  | **X** |  | No vandalism |
| Lots of traffic |  | **X** | **X** |  |  | No traffic |
| Poor Building Condition |  |  | **X** | **X** |  | Good Building Condition |

**Questionnaire Results – 50 respondents**

**Graph 3 – What rank score would you give your area (based on a score of 1-10)?**

**Questionnaire – Sample of respondents justification for rank score awarded**

Bailleston

“It’s generally a nice place to live. It’s got a good selection of local shops and good public transport into the city”

“I like the wide pavements and tidy public spaces, the council regularly send out litter pickers to keep the place neat”

“It’s got good schools and parks for the kids. It’s a good place to stay – not too much trouble”

**Dennistoun**

“There’s too much anti-social behaviour from some idiots – I don’t like walking about myself at night”

“I wish everyone would keep the streets and buildings cleaner, some folk don’t seem to care; there’s rubbish lying about and vandalism”

“It’s got a good community spirit with a great mix of people – I also like that it’s really close to the city centre”