

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Writing a proposal form for your Independent Investigation

Start of your investigation



Your [proposal form](#) is a planning document and it's intended to help you pull your ideas together.

You can then look at the 'big picture' and think about your investigation overall.



Your proposal does not have to be perfect. Your teacher can support you as you start to plan, and they will sign off your form before you get going.

Getting started with your proposal form

Title - What are you going to investigate?

How does your title link to the specification?

What is the geographical location of your investigation? How will you break your investigation down i.e. what sub-questions/sub-hypotheses will you have?

What information and data will you collect? How much of this will be out 'in the field' (primary data) or from research (secondary data)? How much data will you collect and how often (sampling strategy)?



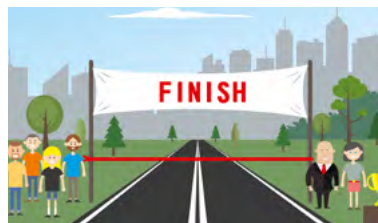
Research



Thinking



E.g. This will help your understanding for each section of the proposal form. See [student guide](#) and the infographics for support.



Start with the end in mind with your investigation i.e. what do you want to find out and why?



Before you start investigating - what do you think is the answer to your investigation?

Example: To what extent are groynes the most effective coastal management strategy in Sheringham?

There are a few different types of hard engineering strategies being used in Sheringham to manage coastal erosion. Groyne show the differences in beach height either side, they are therefore trapping sediment from longshore drift. They are visibly stopping erosion.

The enquiry process



The A Level investigation follows an enquiry process. This gives you a structure to follow - [find out more](#)

Your ideas will evolve (change) as you learn more about the place and the topic you are investigating. This is normal and part of the enquiry process.



As you find out more (research and data collection), you may discount some information/data that doesn't help you answer your investigation title.



Session	June	Year									
Centre Name	Proposal form support Here are some ideas to help you complete your proposal form.						Centre Number				
Candidate Name							Candidate Number				

Investigation Title	How the title links to the specification content									
<i>Your title needs a geographical (topic/theme) and spatial (location) context. Is it a genuine geographical issue that you can investigate to find an answer?</i>	<i>Where does your investigation link to the specification? This could be more than one topic.</i>									
Planned investigation hypothesis or question, investigation sub-questions, and the geographical area where the primary data collection will take place.										
<i>Your sub-questions enable you to break your title down and look at aspects of it in more depth. You could have 2-4 sub-questions. Each sub-question/hypothesis should be an answerable question or testable hypothesis that is clear and well-defined so that you can do the research needed within an appropriate time frame.</i> <i>Your investigation will have a spatial context and it is here you will collect primary and potentially secondary data to help answer your question – why did you chose this location?</i>										
Investigation focus - indication of how the enquiry will address the investigation title and explore the theme in relation to the chosen geographical area.										
<i>You will need to do some reading for this section as you need to understand a little more about your chosen topic and location of your investigation. This is where you start to shape your thinking about what it is you want to research and why? Why have you selected the location for your investigation and what is it you want to find out from this area?</i>										
Planned methodology – indication of qualitative and/or quantitative techniques including primary and, if relevant, secondary data collection techniques, indication of the planned sampling strategy or strategies.										Individual/ Group data collection (Delete as appropriate)
<i>This section should outline how you will collect information and / or data for your investigation. The ideas you list will need to help you answer the title of your investigation and your sub-questions. You need to think about how manageable your data collection is for the time you have available and the amount of information you gather, as this will then need to be analysed. To help your thinking with this section see the methodology infographic . You might find as you start investigating that you discount some of these initial data collection ideas, which is fine and part of the enquiry process. You can explain why you have done this in your evaluation section.</i>										
Teacher approval for the investigation or details of any necessary amendments that need to be made before approval can be given.										
Teacher Approval:	<i>Your teacher will be able to support you with your early thinking and planning for your investigation and they need to sign your proposal before you get started. These 12 exemplar proposal forms show a variety of investigations with different approaches. They are not perfect as they are an initial plan at the start of the investigation process.</i>									
(Yes/No)										
Teacher signature										

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Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations

OCR Resources: *the small print*

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