

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Top Ingredients: NEA titles

<i>Ingredient</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Do you have it?</i>
Geography	Does your study have a clear geographical focus? Geography is about locations and considerations of spatial or temporal patterns, trends and/or changes – the NEA must be about a place and take place in a place!	
Specification	Does your study have a clear link to part of the specification you are studying? Make sure that you are able to show this. The link to the specification will help you define your question. Remember that not all topics you are interested in will be on the specification.	
Core concept, geographical idea or theory	Geography specifications list core concepts – for example interdependence, inequality and resilience. Each topic area has its own concepts e.g. sediment cell and its own theories e.g. Poverty cycle. Your study should be rooted in one or more of these.	
Aim	Your aim is a general statement about the topic you are investigating. The aim should give hints as to what your sub questions will be. An example would be 'An investigation into the factors affecting the distribution and frequency of use of fast food outlets in Abbey Ward Cambridge.'	
Sub questions	NEAs have a range of formats. Some will have a few (2-4) sub questions. Sub questions can enable you to plan how you are going to investigate your aim. Sub questions are often explored using different types of methods. For example a sub question on perception of health services might rely on a questionnaire (primary data) and a published survey by Public Health England (secondary data).	
Scale	NEA studies are most often at a small scale. It may be that a local area that is repeatedly accessible would be advantageous. Small scale studies are more manageable and accurate than large scale studies. However, the area should not be too small otherwise there may not be any significant variation in the variables collected.	
Primary data	Can you collect some primary data? Although it would be possible to complete an NEA using only published primary and secondary data sources this is not typical. The specification requires fieldwork to be undertaken. In both human and physical environments a range of methods used well are best.	
Higher level thinking	Use question types which incorporate higher order thinking skills e.g. 'how far does' or 'to what extent'. Try to avoid 'what' questions – these lead to descriptive or narrative responses.	