

GCE



Revised GCE  
**Geography**

**Student Guidance**

AS Unit 3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques  
in Geography: the summary statement  
and table of data

For first teaching from September 2016  
For first award of AS in Summer 2017





# Fieldwork in AS Geography

## Guidance for centres

### Introduction

The purpose of these guidance/support materials is to enable candidates and centres to:-

- Understand the importance and requirements of fieldwork at AS level.
- To become familiar with fieldwork requirements within the Revised Specification.
- To provide clarification on the requirements of the written report as well as the provision of exemplar materials.
- To provide specific guidance for centres on how to fully prepare candidates for the AS Unit 3 examination which aims to assess fieldwork skills and techniques.

### The Fieldwork Report

As outlined in Section 6.3 of the Revised GCE Geography Specification there is a requirement for candidates to submit a fieldwork report and table of data as part of the AS3 examination. These materials may be centre produced and marks are not awarded for their inclusion. However, submission is vital so that candidates can attain marks in Question 1 of AS Unit 3. The summary statement should provide the spatial and theoretical context of the study so that examiners can verify candidate's fieldwork knowledge. The data table is essential to enable the candidate to present, analyse, statistically test and interpret the findings of their fieldwork.

Centres are advised to collect the summary statement and table of data from candidates prior to the date of examination. This should be held securely by the Examination Officer and presented to the Invigilator to be issued to candidates along with the examination paper. Plastic covers or folders should not be used as the report is ultimately attached to the AS3 examination paper using a treasury tag.

- **The Fieldwork Report** – the summary statement of approximately 100 words must include:
  - a general title for the fieldwork;
  - a brief statement of the aims/ purpose/issues which provide the theoretical context for the fieldwork. The general aim may be developed into key questions/hypotheses; and
  - a brief outline of the spatial context of the study – a location map may be submitted, if desired, by the centre.

### Take note

- Candidates should not address any other aspects of the investigation in this summary statement. Question 1 on Unit AS3 will require the candidate to draw on their knowledge, skills and experiences gained throughout all stages of the fieldwork investigation process. (Figure 3)
- The fieldwork should arise from, or be linked closely to, the theoretical concepts outlined in the AS1 or AS2 units of study.

## Table of Data

A table (or tables) of data **must** be attached. The table(s) submitted should include:

- Data collected for **all** variables relevant to the proposed aim/purpose of the study outlined in the report.
- Primary and secondary data necessary to investigate the aim of the geographical investigation.
- Quantitative data (numerical scores), essential to allow for graphical representation and statistical analysis (however, qualitative data may be included in addition if relevant).
- Students should adhere to normal conventions. The table should include a specific title and all variables should be clearly stated along with precise units of measurement.
- Raw data (averages or other statistical calculations should not be included).

It is expected that ICT is used for the presentation of both the summary statement and the table of data. Sample materials for guidance purposes only are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

## The Process of Investigation

When completing a geographical investigation, a sequence of stages needs to be followed enabling candidates to be fully prepared for Question 1 of AS3. This question assesses a candidate's ability to plan, present, statistically analyse, interpret and evaluate fieldwork.

## Fig 1: SAMPLE

**Title:** A study of the fluvial characteristics of the Colin River.

**Aim:** To investigate if the fluvial and channel characteristics of the Colin River change with distance downstream.

### Hypotheses

- Channel width, depth and cross-sectional area increase significantly downstream.
- River discharge remains consistent throughout the course of the river.
- The river becomes significantly more efficient (as measured by its hydraulic radius) with distance from the source.
- The gradient of the river bed decreases significantly downstream.
- The bedload characteristics exhibit a significant decrease in angularity and particle size with distance downstream.

**Location:** The Colin River, a tributary of the River Lagan, is located in Suffolk in West Belfast.

**Table:** All relevant primary data should be attached. All variables and units of measurement should be clearly displayed in tabulated format.

## Fig 2: SAMPLE

**Title:** A geographical study of economic and social deprivation in an inner city area of Belfast.

**Aim:** To determine if inner city environments are characterised by higher levels of socio-economic deprivation and lower levels of environmental quality compared to outer urban areas.

### Hypotheses

- Building density and land use change with distance along the defined transect.
- The inner urban environment is characterised by a lower level of desirability as assessed through environmental evaluation survey.
- Inner urban environments are characterised by higher traffic volumes and higher levels of traffic management.
- A larger percentage of students, immigrants, one parent families and lower income residents occupy the inner urban area.
- A smaller percentage of houses in the inner urban area are owner occupied compared to outer urban areas.

**Location:** A defined belt transect along the Ormeau Road in Belfast.

**Table:** All relevant primary/ secondary data should be attached. All variables and units of measurement should be clearly displayed in tabulated format.

**Fig 3: Geographical Investigation Process**



