EDEXCEL INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION TOTAL SCORE 70

3000-4000 words

HOW TO GET A GOOD SCORE

- from the mark scheme (what it says you need to do to gain top scores)

( ) help / guidance, what you should do to address the mark scheme

A. PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION /12

- Demonstrate accurate and relevant geographical knowledge

(reference sources of the background ideas and theories you are testing and why they are relevant)

- Locational understanding

(reference sources and how the area you have chosen to study is suited to test the ideas you are investigating)

- Understand the background theory

(reference sources, background theory, concepts and ideas. Note this in bibliography of references)

- Understand the comparative content

(this might look at how similar ideas have been tested in similar and different circumstances)

- Apply understanding, link investigation to geographical/contextual theory

- Wide range of sources to get the data

(primary and secondary)

- Justify the aim, question, hypothesis/hypotheses

(link this to the syllabus mentioning sections and using “quotes” and extracts)

B. FIELD METHODOLOGY / DATA COLLECTION /10

- Choose appropriate methods to collect a range of data relevant to the ideas / questions / topic / themes being studied

(range of techniques is important as is explaining why you used those methods, how it is to be used)

- Use appropriate sampling systems

(sampling techniques explained, random, stratified, systematic or convenience and techniques justified)

- Explain the frequency and timing of observations

(when / where / how and why, and remember a risk assessment of risks to you, the data and 3rd parties)

- Understand the ethical dimension to research

(in human research you may interact with the public, you should consider their feelings, they may see any research findings, and you may make value judgements)

- Data collection methods reliable and consistent

(secondary sources should be explained and referenced in terms of how they add to the knowledge, understanding and testing of ideas)

(full record of data collection not needed in appendix, but samples of the data collection sheets should be added there to be referred to in the text. These could be labelled and annotated and may even be in the section on methods)

C. DATA PRESENTATION ANALYSIS INTERPRETATION /24

- Evaluation of techniques / methods

(select, explain and justify presentation techniques, maps, graphs, charts, tables, diagrams, photos and statistical techniques including significance)

- Appropriate skills to deconstruct the data to show connections/ accuracy of data / statistics

(look for ways in which the data both primary and secondary support the ideas you have put forward to be tested OR contradicts them)

- Detailed / balanced appraisal of techniques
  of ethical dimension
  of validity of techniques

(explain why you have used the specific analysis methods and how the results related to your original ideas / hypotheses)

- Forms a valid / coherent conclusion

(explain any patterns and trend in the data and any possible anomalies)

- Communicates conclusion well, supported by the presentations, analysis and interpretation

(well structured overall report, contents, executive summary, introduction, well integrated diagrams, graphs, phots, stats into main report, conclusions and evaluation, list of figures, appendices, bibliography)

D. CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION /24

- Show accurate and relevant geographical knowledge, locational knowledge, theory knowledge and the comparative context

- Shows / understand the links between the conclusions and the geographical context (theories)

(show how results relate to the wider context theoretical, locational comparative)

- Comprehensive synthesis (drawing together) of findings)

(explain how your understanding of issues relevant to the theory, concepts and ideas being tested has been improved)

- Clear appraisal of reliability of evidence and validity of conclusions

(back up your conclusions with specific facts, figures and results)
(explain strengths and weaknesses of your study and possible future research directions and dimensions)

- Show logical reasoning and geographical terminology

(well structured, executive summary, introduction, with a range of techniques used to illustrate you ideas)

- Convincing conclusion, supported by evidence and relating to the aims and purpose of the investigation.

(must relate back to the introductory ideas and draw supported conclusions)