

Tutor support materials

GCE

Edexcel GCE in Biology

Unit 3 – A Student's Guide to the Visit or Issue Report

October 2008

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Unit 3 – A Student’s Guide to the Visit or Issue Report

- 1 Describe the biological methods and processes used in a chosen area of biology in the context of a problem or question identified during a visit made or issue researched.**
 - 1 Identify and describe a question or problem in an area of biology relevant to a visit made or issue researched (maximum 4 marks).**

You must state what problem biologists are trying to solve for 2 marks. If it is not clear then you will only get 1 mark. A full description of the problem itself gets another 2 marks but only another one if the description is too brief.
 - 2 Describe the biological methods and processes involved in producing data or solutions to problems or questions relevant to a visit made or issue researched (maximum 4 marks).**

You must give a full description of the methods the biologists are using to try and solve this problem. This will get 2 marks and another 2 if you provide data or examples in your discussion.
 - 3 Explain how the methods and processes used in the chosen area of biology are appropriate in terms of producing both valid and reliable data or effective solutions to address the problem or question identified, using graphs, photos, diagrams and tables that are appropriate, relevant and integrated with the report (maximum 4 marks).**

There are 2 marks here for a full explanation of why these methods or solutions that you have described are actually appropriate. Another 2 marks will be given for a discussion that includes graphs, tables, photographs or diagrams with data that is valid as part of the discussion explaining why the methods are appropriate.
- 2 Identify applications and implications of the biology encountered within the context of the visit or issue researched.**
 - 1 Identify two implications (ethical, social, environmental or economic) of the applied biology encountered within the context of the visit or issue researched (maximum 4 marks).**

In your research into how biologists solve the problem you have identified, you must mention at least two implications, ethical, social, economic or environmental for 2 marks. Another 2 will be given if each of these is described and discussed in more detail.
 - 2 Evaluate benefits and risks to humans, other organisms and the environment as appropriate, of the implications of the applied biology being studied or identified (maximum 4 marks).**

2 marks will be given here for a full discussion of the benefits or advantages of the methods that biologists are using, only 1 mark for a brief discussion. Another 2 marks will be given for a detailed discussion of any risks or disadvantages. These may be an extension of any problems identified in 2.1.

3 Discuss alternative views or solutions for implications of the biology encountered within the context of the visit or issue (maximum 4 marks).

Now that you have identified problems associated with the methods used, there are 2 marks for each of two alternative solutions. These may form a speculative look at the future. Only 1 mark will be given for a brief description of either alternative.

3 Use information or arguments obtained from three or more sources (including at least one web-based and one non web-based) when researching the visit or issue.

1 Use information or arguments obtained from three or more sources (including at least one web-based and one non web-based) when researching the visit or issue. Clearly identify any quotes from sources (maximum 4 marks).

There is 1 mark for using at least one web source and another for using at least one non-web source. An extra mark will be given if there are at least three sources used altogether. The fourth mark is for sources being acknowledged in the text and identified clearly. Notice the word ‘use’. These 4 marks will only be given if the sources are clearly being used within the discussion, not just tagged on at the end.

2 Provide information about the source, author and date of three or more references used in the visit or issue report. Link references to the appropriate text in the visit or issue report (maximum 4 marks).

There is 1 mark for an incomplete bibliography at the end of the report and 2 for a full one. A third mark is for some sources being acknowledged in the text and a fourth for acknowledging all the sources. It must be possible for the reader to find the information from these sources. A home page on its own is not sufficient, nor are references to textbooks or Wikipedia alone. This has to be an original piece of work.

3 Evaluate at least two references used in the report (maximum 4 marks).

There is 1 mark for any informed comment being made about the validity of each of two sources. The other 2 marks will only be given if these comments are backed up with some research giving the evidence itself and your own opinion. Just referring to ‘the same information’ is not enough – the reader needs to know what information is being referred to.

4 Communicate clearly, concisely and logically with appropriate use of visuals.

1 Spelling, punctuation and grammar are correct and the presentation is logical and concise (maximum 2 marks).

There is 1 mark if your report is well set out and your spelling, punctuation and grammar are reasonable. There is an extra mark if your spelling, punctuation and grammar are good.

2 There is good use of technical language. Visuals are present but not necessarily referred to in the text (maximum 2 marks).

There is 1 mark for technical language and ‘visuals’ such as photographs or graphs in the text. The second mark is for good technical language and the ‘visuals’ being referred to clearly.

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