

Non-examined assessment: Exemplar 2 – examiner commentary



A Level Geography

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography (9GE0)

Non-examined assessment: Exemplar 2

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Candidate Title

An investigation into actual and perceived crime in Guildford

Summary of marks

Purpose of the independent investigation	Secure level 2
Field methodologies and data collection	Secure level 2
Data representation, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of techniques and methodologies used	Level 3
Conclusions and critical evaluation of the overall investigation	Secure level 3

Examiner commentary

Purpose of the investigation

It was thought that this write up was **secure** in level 2. This was because: *Demonstrates geographical knowledge and understanding of location, geographical theory and comparative context which is relevant but narrow or incomplete, and may include some inaccuracies (AO1).*

There is reference to theory throughout such as page 1 but it is narrow – the write up could have examined perceptions of different types of crime.

Applies understanding to find links between the investigation's context and a broader geographical context; links are mainly relevant and coherent but may include some inaccuracies (AO2).

There are links with a broader context in the discussion of the accuracy of perception page 2.

Investigates a range of mainly relevant geographical sources in order to identify or obtain mainly accurate geographical information and data that supports most parts of the investigation; research information is used to construct a generally valid aim, question or hypothesis that provides a mostly appropriate framework for investigation with some consideration of manageability and/or scale; planned enquiry process is adequately structured and clear (AO3).

There are a range of sources such as newspapers page 3 and police data page 4. It would be far easier now to obtain a wider range of sources such as crime data from the internet. If this investigation was carried out today productive secondary sources could be the Crime Domain element of the IMD and actual crime data which would have allowed a discussion of what constitutes 'crime' – this could then have been addressed in this section and then revisited in the evaluation.

Field methodologies and data collection

It was thought that this write up was **secure in** level 2. This was because: *Chooses methods to collect data and information relevant to the geographical topic (AO3).*

There was (for the time) a good method to obtain actual crime data on page 7 – it is now far easier using the internet.

A sampling framework is considered but may not be technically valid or successfully implemented (AO3).

Sampling was discussed on page 5 but was driven by the police data – using output areas would probably be the favoured spatial sampling technique now.

Consideration of either frequency or timing of observations. (AO3)

There was little of this but as with all the criteria not all have to be satisfied for the level to be awarded.

Non-examined assessment: Exemplar 2

Data and information collected using methods with inconsistent accuracy/precision (AO3).

The data collected by the questionnaire had precise data from police data, but the questions in the questionnaire were thought to be less precise. In particular, there is no clarity as to the nature of the wards that were selected. It would have been better to have a justified sampling system, but given the age of the write up this is again not a critical problem although a student must address this in the evaluation of the write up.

Data representation, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of techniques and methodologies

It was thought that this write up was **probably** in low level 3. This was because:

Uses appropriate geographical skills to deconstruct data in order to show partially evidenced connections and mostly accurate statistical/geographical significance of data (AO3).

There were scatterplots on page 15, bar charts on page 14 and dispersion graphs on page 17. There was statistical analysis on page 16.

Provides a generally balanced appraisal, that may lack detail in some aspects of techniques and methodologies used including:

- *ethical dimensions of field research*
- *utility and validity of chosen methodologies (AO3).*

There is an appraisal of the techniques and methodologies on page 24 but it lacks detail. In particular there is a lack of clarity – for example distance appears to be measured to a central point in each ward but as the crow flies, one presumes.

Synthesises research findings coherently to form rational conclusions that are mostly supported by evidence (AO3).

There is synthesis of the results on pages 18-23 and this does lead to rational conclusions.

Communicates conclusions that are supported by mostly relevant fieldwork data or information presented in a manner which is appropriate and mostly technically accurate (AO3).

Conclusions are stated page 24 but could have been better supported by the use of fieldwork data.

Conclusions and critical evaluations of the overall investigation

It was thought that this write up was **secure** in level 3. This was because: *Demonstrates mostly accurate and relevant geographical knowledge and understanding of location, geographical theory and comparative context throughout (AO1).*

Again the key word is throughout and not just in a section titled conclusion. This was shown throughout the write up where the factors behind the perception of crime are discussed. There is an evaluation of the '50' which is described as 'fairly large' but it is acknowledged that no attempt has been made to represent the whole population.

Applies understanding to find largely coherent and relevant links between the investigation's conclusions and a broader geographical context. (AO2)

The broader geographical context is limited and the student could have widened out the study to the UK – it would be easier now with the internet.

Synthesises most aspects of the research findings coherently and comprehensively (AO3). Provides a mainly appropriate appraisal of the reliability of evidence and validity of conclusions (AO3). A developed argument which considers a relevant selection of factors in an uneven manner and which is expressed through logical lines of reasoning that are clear, but not fully developed and demonstrates a use of an appropriately structured enquiry process. Uses mostly accurate geographical terminology (AO3).

There is a sound developed argument through the explanation of results as well as the evaluation of the write up on page 24 and 25. There is good use of accurate geographical terminology.

Conclusions are mostly supported by drawing together a selection of mostly relevant evidence and concepts linked to the investigation (AO3).

The student does make conclusions page 24 but could have benefitted from the conclusions being stated and supported by key pieces of data from the write up.