

GCSE



CCEA GCSE Revised
Geography

Guidance for centres

Unit 3: Fieldwork - the fieldwork
statement and table of data

For first teaching from September 2017
For first award in Summer 2019



Fieldwork in GCSE Geography

Guidance for centres

Introduction

The purpose of this guidance material is to:

- enable students and centres to become familiar with fieldwork requirements of the revised GCSE Geography Specification;
- provide clarification on the requirements of the fieldwork statement and table of data; and
- provide exemplar materials.

Fieldwork is an essential aspect of Geography. It involves applying specific geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to a particular and real out-of-classroom context.

In Unit 3, students are required to collect geographical data first-hand through fieldwork.

Assessment for this unit is a written examination. Students must create and submit a word-processed fieldwork statement and table of data.

The Fieldwork Statement

As outlined in Section 6.3 of the revised GCSE Geography Specification there is a requirement for candidates to submit a fieldwork statement and table of data as part of the Unit 3 examination. The fieldwork statement should provide the context of the investigation through a statement of the title and aim of the investigation, the hypotheses to be investigated as well as the location. The table of data should include all data required to investigate the aim of the investigation. These materials may be centre produced. No marks are awarded to the fieldwork statement or table of data. However, submission is vital so that candidates can complete questions in the Unit 3 paper.

A completed cover sheet must accompany the fieldwork statement and table of data. Centres should collect the fieldwork statement and table of data from candidates prior to the date of examination. This should be held securely by the Examinations Officer and given to the Invigilator to be issued to candidates along with the examination paper. Students must not submit their fieldwork statement and table in a plastic cover or folder. Candidates will submit the fieldwork statement and table of data with their Unit 3 question paper and answer booklet.

The Fieldwork Statement

The fieldwork statement must include:

- a title;
- the aim of the investigation;
- the hypotheses that the candidate is testing; and
- details of the location of the study (including a map if appropriate). The spatial context can be centre produced as all students will visit the same sampling sites/area.

Candidates must not address any other aspects of the investigation in this fieldwork statement. Questions on the Unit 3 exam paper will require the candidate to draw on their knowledge, skills and experiences gained throughout all stages of the geographical enquiry process (Figure 5). The fieldwork should be drawn from the theoretical concepts outlined in Unit 1 or Unit 2.

Table of Data

A table of data **must** be available in the exam and submitted with the question and answer booklet. The table submitted should include:

- raw data collected for **all** variables relevant to the proposed aim of the study;
- primary data essential for investigating the aim of the study, candidates may include secondary data if relevant;
- quantitative data (numerical scores), essential to allow for graphical representation, candidates may include qualitative material, if relevant;
- normal conventions: the table should include a specific title and all variables should be clearly stated along with precise units of measurement.

It is expected that students will use ICT for the presentation of both the fieldwork statement and the table of data.

Sample materials for guidance purposes only are given in Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The enquiry approach to Geography fieldwork

When completing a geographical investigation, a sequence of stages needs to be followed enabling candidates to prepare fully for Unit 3. This written paper assesses the candidate's ability to plan, present, analyse, interpret, draw conclusions and evaluate fieldwork.

Further information can be downloaded from www.ccea.org.uk/geography. The following documents may be helpful:

- Fieldwork: the geographical enquiry process;
- Unit 3 Fieldwork: the enquiry approach to Geography fieldwork;
- GCSE Geography Unit 3 Fieldwork: Frequently asked questions; and
- GCSE Geography Specimen Assessment Materials.

Figure 1

SAMPLE 1

Title: An investigation of how river features change along the long profile of a river.

Aim: To study how river features change along the long profile of the Glenarm River.

Hypotheses

- The width and depth of the river increases with increasing distance downstream.
- River discharge increases with increasing distance downstream.

Location

The Glenarm River is located in the Glens of Antrim, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Summary Table of Data

All variables and units of measurement should be clearly displayed in tabulated format. The summary table of data included the following:

- Site
- Distance downstream (kms)
- Width (m)
- Average depth (m)
- Velocity (m/sec)
- Discharge (cumecs)

Figure 2

SAMPLE 2

Title: A geographical study of issues facing an inner city area of Belfast.

Aim: To investigate traffic issues in the Woodstock area of Belfast.

Hypotheses

- The Woodstock area experiences traffic congestion throughout the day.
- Parking is a major problem for residents in the Woodstock area.

Location: The Woodstock area in Belfast.

Summary Table of Data

All variables and units of measurement should be clearly displayed in tabulated format. The summary table of data included the following:

- Number of vehicles by type at each point/time
 - Cars
 - Buses
 - Vans
 - Lorries
 - Bicycles
 - Motorbikes
- Street survey:
 - Number of cars parked in street
 - Number of cars partly parked on pavement
 - Parking restrictions
- Results of attitudinal survey of residents looking at public transport in the area.
 - Level of car ownership
 - Where do residents park their car?
 - Concerns relating to
 - Ability to park close to home
 - Cars partly parked on pavement
 - Impact of parking on deliveries/bin collections

Figure 3

SAMPLE 3

Title: An investigation of how river features change along the long profile of a river.

Aim: To study how river features change along the long profile of the Curly Burn River.

Hypotheses

- The cross-sectional area of the river increases with increasing distance downstream.
- River velocity increases with increasing distance downstream.
- Bedload shape becomes more rounded and size becomes smaller downstream.

Location

The Curly Burn, a tributary of the River Roe, is located in North-West Northern Ireland.

Summary Table of Data

All variables and units of measurement should be clearly displayed in tabulated format. The summary table of data included the following:

- Site
- Distance downstream (kms)
- Height above sea level (m)
- Width (m)
- Average depth (m)
- Cross sectional area (m²)
- Velocity (m/sec)
- Discharge (cumecs)
- Average bedload length (cms)
- Stone shape (%)
 - Very angular
 - Angular
 - Sub-angular
 - Sub-rounded
 - Rounded
 - Well rounded

SAMPLE 4

Title: A geographical study of issues facing an inner city area of Belfast.

Aim: To investigate housing and traffic issues in the Lower Ormeau area of Belfast.

Hypotheses

- Housing in the inner city area is mainly poor quality terraced housing.
- The inner city area experiences traffic congestion throughout the day.
- Residents are concerned about car parking in the inner city area by people who work in the CBD.

Location: The Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast.

Summary Table of Data

All variables and units of measurement should be clearly displayed in tabulated format. The summary table of data included the following:

- Site
- Housing type:
 - Terraced
 - Semi-detached
 - Detached
 - Multi-occupancy (flats, apartments)
- Housing quality index
- Number of vehicles by type at each point/time
 - Cars
 - Buses
 - Vans
 - Lorries
 - Bicycles
 - Motorbikes
- Results of attitudinal survey of residents

Fig. 5: The Geographical Enquiry Process

