

Years 9–10 assessment techniques and conditions

Humanities and Social Sciences — Geography

This document outlines assessment techniques and response conditions to achieve range and balance within an assessment program. Schools consider the local context, and the age and capabilities of the students, when selecting appropriate assessment techniques and response conditions.

Techniques	Investigation	Project	Examination
Description	An investigation assesses students' abilities to collect, analyse, record and represent multi-variable geographical data and findings to respond to inquiry questions.	A project assesses students' abilities to respond to a single task, stimulus, question, situation and/or scenario that gives students authentic opportunities to demonstrate their geographical knowledge, understanding and skills.	An examination assesses students' responses that are produced independently, under supervised conditions and in a set timeframe. An examination ensures student authorship.
	An investigation requires students to locate and use evidence that goes beyond the data or information they have been given and the knowledge they currently have. Research conventions must be followed, e.g. acknowledging sources regardless of the presentation format.	A project requires students to evaluate and draw conclusions about primary and secondary sources. Primary sources are unprocessed original materials collected by the student, e.g. observations and measurements taken in the field (school grounds, local community or more distant locations), surveys and responses to questionnaires.	An examination requires students to respond to one or more assessment items. These items are based on questions or tasks that are typically unseen. Questions or tasks may be based on stimulus material. Stimulus materials may be seen or unseen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seen questions, statements or stimulus materials should be provided with sufficient time for students to adequately engage with the materials. • Unseen questions, statements or stimulus materials should not be copied from information or texts that students have previously been exposed to, or have directly used, in class.



Techniques	Investigation	Project	Examination
Formats (examples only)	Formats include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – brochure – letter – feature article – information report – argumentative or persuasive essay • spoken/signed or multimodal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – multimodal presentation – seminar – conference – photographic essay – formal speech with notes supported by cartographic and graphical sources. 	Formats include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – news report – journal entry – annotated bibliography – field trip report – blog • spoken/signed or multimodal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – seminars – pitch – interview – roleplay – webcast – podcast – webpage – digital urban trails or digital/interactive map. 	Formats include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short response items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – sentence response that defines terms and give explanations and examples of these terms – paragraph response demonstrating a depth of conceptual understanding – data response test that includes a range of specific geographical data, e.g. aerial photos, maps, graphs, images, statistics, minimal text • extended response items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – practical exercise that manipulates and represents geographical data from primary or secondary sources • response to stimulus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – response demonstrates an ability to interpret, analyse and draw conclusions.
Conditions	Suggested length:* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written responses 600–800 words • spoken/signed or multimodal responses 3–4 minutes. 	Suggested length:* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written responses 600–800 words • spoken/signed or multimodal responses 3–4 minutes. 	Suggested time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 90 minutes, plus 10 minutes perusal. Suggested length:* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600–800 words, comprising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – short response 50–100 words per item – extended response 300–400 words per item.

Notes

Responses may be written, spoken/signed or multimodal (integrating visual, print and/or audio features), recorded or live.

* Length of student responses should be considered in the context of the assessment. Longer responses do not necessarily provide better quality evidence of achievement.