



Hills
Grammar

Senior Geography Project

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What is the Senior Geography Project?

[SGP]

The SGP is an investigation **and** report on a geographical topic

Students

- Choose a topic that interests them and which ***you*** agree can be investigated
- Identify the focus of the project
- Complete **TWO STAGES**

STAGE 1. Plan of Investigation

Progress of the ***geographical research*** that shows the ***geographical inquiry*** process along with **Log Book**

STAGE 2. Final Report

Present a final **Geography Report 2000** Words along with completed **Log Book**

Topic Selection

General advice to students

Select

- A topic you are interested in
- An area that is accessible and you are able to visit independently
- Set aside time in the School holidays Term 2 to complete much of the fieldwork and gathering of primary and secondary sources
- Keep an ongoing record of Secondary sources for the Bibliography and future reference
- Read the local paper for ideas
- Visit the local library and look in historical files about the local area
- Visit the local council and see if there are any developments planned that could be a topic
- Keep it simple

Topic Selection

Topic Categories

1. Environmental topics

E.g. An evaluation of the various environmental/ social and economic changes from a major construction at site "x"

2. Transport topics

E.g. To what extent are the main roads and pavements of town "x" congested?

3. Urban topics

4. Physical topics

5. Amenity topics

6. Population topics

7. Rural topics

8. Sporting topics

9. Human topics

10. Technology topics

11. Target HSC case studies

What is Ethical Research?

When conducting your Geographical research you will need to keep in mind the following accepted guidelines:

- Respect confidentiality of those providing information to you. Ask permission to publish their ideas/ work
- Do not use deception to get information from people. Use the included letter to support your inquiry
- Avoid risk of harm to yourself and others when seeking data
- Obtain permission before entering property
- Minimise any damage to the environment
- Store and save your data in a safe place, have back up on your computer system. Computer failure is no excuse for inability to complete your SGP
- Acknowledge your secondary sources by labeling any material

PLAGIARISM

- Copying from books, websites, or the work of other students is stealing
- It is called plagiarism and is taken very seriously
- If it is clear that you have copied large sections of your work from other students, books or the internet, then you will be given **zero**
- It is not difficult for teachers to find false data/conclusions and/or plagiarized material. The best way to guard against plagiarism of secondary sources is to footnote wherever possible
- Primary source material is encouraged wherever possible



Collecting Data For Your SGP- Two Types of Sources

1. **Secondary**- information which other people have collected described and analysed
 - You will find this in newspapers, reports, magazines, books radio and television
 - Write down the date of when you accessed the material and the date the material was published

Where to get secondary sources-

- Local library(Local History section)
- Local Council
- Local Newspaper Office
- Information Offices of State Government Departments

2. **Primary**- information you collect yourself

- This can be in the form of field observation, photographs you have taken, sketches, statistics, and information from questionnaires

Where to get primary sources-

- Fieldwork, you can plot information onto maps, sketches
- Photographs prepare and carry out surveys using direct observation, interviews

COVER LETTER

To whom it may concern

As part of the Year 11 Preliminary Course in Geography, students are required by NESA to undertake a mandatory Senior Geography Project (SGP).

The SGP is an integrative assignment that requires the student to apply knowledge, skills and techniques to an investigation of a local geographic issue or topic. As such it provides the student with the opportunity to translate the course content into a practical assignment. Each student is to select a geographical issue that relates to their course of study and they have a set time frame in which to complete their research.

The process involves students gathering and processing relevant primary and secondary data and then reporting their findings in a 2000 Word Geography Report. If approached, it would be greatly appreciated if you could assist students with answering questions or providing them with information that may be useful. I realise that your time is valuable; however, your assistance and encouragement in this would be welcomed.

If you have any questions or inquiries in regards to this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Submission Two Parts

STAGE 1

- Identify the geographic research project to be undertaken and area of interest
- Complete the SGP Booklet section ***STAGE 1. Plan of Investigation*** and submit it to be checked by your teacher; it will either be approved or advice to be given to modify
- It will involve an interview with the teacher to determine the suitability of the topic
- Submit completed **Log Book** so far
- **This Stage is worth 10%**

STAGE 2

- Communicate the results and findings, including a critical review of the ***STAGE 1. Plan of Investigation***
- Each student is required to submit
 - ***STAGE 2. Final Geography Report*** of 2000 Words
 - SGP Assessment Booklet
 - Completed **Log Book**
- **This Stage is worth 30%**

Refer to Pages 78 - 79 of text **Global Interactions** Second Edition Kleeman for more information about what to write about under the above headings

Word Count Guide

SECTION of SGP	WORD COUNT
1. Title page	Not included in word count
2. Table of contents	Not included in word count
3. List of tables and figures	Not included in word count
4. Aims and Hypotheses	100 words
5. Methodology	200-400 words
6. Research Findings	800-1200 words
7. Conclusion	100-300 words
8. Evaluation	300-500 words
9. Bibliography	Not included in word count
10. Acknowledgements	Not included in word count
11. Appendix	Not included in word count
12. Active Citizenship	Not included in word count

Stage ONE

Plan of Investigation

To help you begin of some possible topics for you SGP consider **your local area**

Complete the following:

1. Identify the main physical features of your local area?

2. Identify the major industries- primary/secondary

[Use ABS Statistics]

3. Outline the major employment types

[Use ABS Statistics]

4. Identify and name the urban processes (urban growth, decline, suburbanisation, consolidation) occurring in your local area

[12 Inquiry questions to start students investigating the local area]

Clarifying the Task

To help you develop your ideas into a research focus for your SGP, complete the following:

- The general issue / topic I have chosen is
- This topic interests me because
- **Explain** why this topic/ issue is of a geographic nature
- **Outline** how you could obtain information on this issue/topic from primary and secondary sources
- **Identify** what constraints you can have in investigating the issue/topic.
- **Explain** how these constraints can be overcome.

Interview Student

Teacher Evaluation of SGP Topic

Criteria	Elementary----->Excellent				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Usefulness of secondary sources					
2. Usefulness of primary sources					
3. Relevance of geographic questions to complete SGP					
4. Knowledge of local area					

10 Criteria to evaluate during interview

My Research Topic

- State your Geographic issue/ topic

E.g. A study of the interaction of the biosphere and hydrosphere in Lake Woodcroft.

- Develop your research question

E.g. How does the water quality in Lake Woodcroft change after periods of rain?

Aims

State the aims; these are the questions you need to ask in order to investigate your topic
(Eg. to investigate, to discover, to identify, to analyse, to consider, to explain)

- Aim 1: _____

- Aim 2: _____

- Aim 3: _____

- Aim 4: _____

Hypothesis

State your hypothesis; that is the tentative answers to the questions(aims) posed above

- Hypothesis 1
-

- Hypothesis 2
-

- Hypothesis 3
-

- Hypothesis 4
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Identify the
PRIMARY &
SECONDARY
sources you will be
using for your SGP

AND

Explain why these
sources will be
relevant to your
SGP

AIM / HYPOTHESIS	PRIMARY SOURCES	SECONDARY SOURCES
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- Interview
- Survey
- Maps
- Photographs
- Field sketch
- Email
- Letter
- Transect
- Quadrant sampling
- Other

Explain how you will use the following methods of investigation in your SGP

Interview

- Who do you intend to ask?

- What do you want to find out?

- How long will it take to complete the questionnaire/ conduct the interview?

- Where will the interview take place?

Survey

- Identify the purpose of the survey_____

- Where will the survey take place?

Active Citizenship

Action includes

- Writing a letter to a member of parliament
- Create and circulate petitions
- Get involved in a community volunteer activity about your issue
- Send an email to someone involved in the issue expressing your concerns and offer a suggested solution
- Sharing your findings

Marking Criteria

Stage ONE

“Plan of Investigation”

Outcomes Being Assessed:

P.7 Formulates a plan for active geographical inquiry

P.8 Selects and organises relevant geographical information from a variety of sources

P.12 Communicates geographical information, ideas and issues using appropriate written and/or oral, cartographic and graphic forms

Criteria	Marks
<p>A student performing at this grade typically displays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Extensive skills to select, gather, organise and communicate complex geographical information in a broad range of written, and graphic forms▪ Extensive skills to select and apply geographical tools▪ Extensive use of mathematical ideas and techniques to analyse geographical data▪ Extensive use of log book to assist geographical inquiry▪ Extensively communicates geographical information, ideas and issues using appropriate written and, cartographic and graphic forms in a thorough and ethical sophisticated manner	9-10

Marking Criteria

Stage TWO

“Final SGP Report”

Outcomes Being Assessed:

P.8 Selects and organises relevant geographical information from a variety of sources

P.9 Uses maps, graphs and statistics, photographs and fieldwork to conduct geographical inquiries

P.10 Applies mathematical ideas and techniques to analyse geographical data

P.11 Applies geographical understanding and methods ethically and effectively to a research project

P.12 Communicates geographical information, ideas and issues using appropriate written and/or oral, cartographic and graphic forms

Criteria

Marks

A student performing at this grade typically displays:

- extensive skills to clearly and precisely demonstrate the implementation of a formulated plan of active geographical inquiry
- extensive skills to select, apply, and fully integrate geographical tools with an extensive use of primary and secondary sources
- extensive use of mathematical ideas and fieldwork techniques to analyse geographical data
- outstanding critical review of the plan, process, and findings of the investigation and use of log book
- outstanding level of presentation, communication of geographical information by the appropriate use of text types, ideas, issues using a sequential organised and appropriate written, cartographic and graphic forms in a thorough and ethical sophisticated manner

80 -90

STUDENT EVALUATION OF SGP

- What did I do well?
- What could I have done better?
- What have I learnt from this assessment experience?
- How have I shared my experiences and findings
- What advice would you give to next year's Year 11 about the SGP?

Log Book

Senior Geography Project Log Book

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE LOG BOOK

- The aim of the log book is to provide a running record of all work that you complete in relation to your SGP
- Your Log Book will be called for inspection during the year and will be included in the marking of the SGP (Stage One and Stage Two)
- For each time that you work on an aspect of your SGP, either at home, school, in the field record

Date	Time spent	Nature of activity
23/2/17	1.40 hrs.	Completed stage one for Mrs. Larobina to collect next week

Date	Time spent	Nature of activity	Teacher

SGP Relevance to HSC Examination

2014 HSC
NESA

Question 21 (10 marks)

Refer to Source *E* on page 4 of the Stimulus Booklet to answer Question 21.

National Park rangers plan to conduct a fieldwork investigation to study the impact of tourism on Little Rotamah Island (AR 1227).

- (a) What are the possible impacts of tourism on this environment? 2

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- (b) What fieldwork activities could the rangers use to analyse the impact of tourism on this environment? 2

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Question 21 (continued)

- (c) Outline how ONE primary and ONE secondary source could be used by the rangers to provide data and information for their investigation.

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Thank you

