Geography Department

A-Level Induction Tasks

The aim of these induction tasks is to prepare you for A-Level Geography course, beginning in September.

These tasks have been designed to suitably challenge you and to encourage independence but also will allow you to explore areas of geography that you enjoy, whilst focusing on topics that we will study in you’re A-Level course.

We the Geography Department, look forward to meeting you in September.

**Summer preparatory tasks;**

**Task 1:**

Coursework based on fieldwork will be worth 20% of the course. Therefore, to help you prepare for this, we would like you to complete a mini geographical fieldwork investigation based on the following title question:

**Title question - How has… ‘insert named local place/area’ …changed over time?** Use the subheadings given below to help structure your report.

1. Introduction

State title question and explain what it means and aspects change could encompass.

Include a map of your local area – describe where it is located in relation to other places.

State hypotheses/sub questions and aim(s) you are going to focus on (ideally pick at least two of your own specific hypotheses (predictions) or sub-questions, e.g., how has the economy of the area changed over time?).

*Additional challenge: Explain your hypotheses (even better if you have some theoretical content or knowledge in support of a prediction).*

2. Methods:

Use at least one primary method (you collect the evidence/data yourself; it is original and unique) and one secondary method (find evidence/data produced by someone else, in the past and generally for another purpose) to help you answer your hypotheses.

Complete the table below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of data collection method used | Primary or secondary? | Reasons why this data collection was needed | How did you collect and record the data? What equipment did you use? |
|  |  |  |  |

See RGS link to support with planning a collection method;

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/a-student-guide-to-the-a-level-independent-investi/>

NB. Scroll down and then click to access appropriate Pdf files to support data collection and utilising presentation techniques.

NB. Remember to consider any risks involved with primary data collection and plan to collect your data appropriately.

3. Presentation of results

Present each method in a different way (etc., photos, graphs, table of data).

4. Analysis of results

Describe and explain the trends (and relationships) you have identified in the presentation of your results.

5. Conclusion

Provide direct answers to your hypotheses first, then to your main title question.

6. Evaluations

Are your conclusions valid? If you were to repeat this investigation, how could you improve it further? What extra resources would assist you in this task?

***NB. It is a course requirement that this task is completed for the start of term. You will be required to share your findings in class and will have the opportunity to further develop fieldwork skills shortly after the start of term.***

**Task 2**

**Specialised concepts-** Find the definition in a geographical context. These concepts will be used frequently in you’re A-Level. *(A ‘Google’ search should provide results,* [*https://www.tutor2u.net/*](https://www.tutor2u.net/) *is also useful for definitions).*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Key Term** | **Definition** | **Using the concept in a geographical sentence** |
| Adaptation |  |  |
| Equilibrium |  |  |
| Feedback |  |  |
| Globalisation |  |  |
| Hazard |  |  |
| Inequality |  |  |
| Interdependence |  |  |
| Mitigation |  |  |
| Place |  |  |
| Representation |  |  |
| Resilience |  |  |
| Sustainability |  |  |
| System |  |  |

**Reading list (year 1);**

* Royal Geographical Society, Changing Places -

<https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=944f2503-af13-4c7f-b178-e4bbaffb38eb&lang=en-GB>

* Royal Geographical Society, Water and Carbon Cycles-

<https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=6dc9f1c1-f92d-4c04-9f85-9985844a6a79&lang=en-GB>

* Royal Geographical Society, Landscape Systems -

<https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=8f5bac82-9d06-415d-9a93-b385ef2c5556&lang=en-GB>

**Further reading;**

* Earth System Science: A Very Short Introduction, by Tim Lenton.

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