External Assessment

Assessment Type 3: Investigation (30%)

For both a 10-credit subject and a 20-credit subject, students undertake one independent, focused investigation of a negotiated contemporary social or cultural issue in a local and/or global context and present their findings in a written report.

The written report should be a maximum of 1000 words for a 10-credit subject and a maximum of 2000 words for a 20-credit subject. Students must acknowledge sources appropriately.

The negotiated contemporary social or cultural issue may be derived from a topic in this subject outline or may be linked to a student’s personal interest. It is essential that the issue or topic has a clearly defined focus on an aspect of or issue related to a contemporary society or culture.

Students are encouraged to identify and analyse primary, as well as secondary, sources of information in gathering evidence about the issue.

To help in the verification of their work, students should keep a folio of support materials and documents that outline the processes of preliminary data collection. The folio is not submitted for assessment.

Students may use or adapt the following format to guide their learning.

Introduction

This may include:

* a hypothesis and/or guiding question(s)
* a definition of the contemporary social or cultural issue
* a reason for the choice of issue, indicating an appreciation of its significance
* the overall aim of the investigation
* proposed methods.

Body

This comprises the analysis and synthesis, including, for example:

* a brief background to the issue
* an analysis of primary and secondary sources, identifying reasons for particular viewpoints
* a synthesis, drawing together the main arguments into a summary of the findings.

Conclusion

This comprises comments on the significance of the main findings, such as:

* an evaluation of the extent to which the findings support, or fail to support, the hypothesis and/or guiding question(s), and reasons why
* an evaluation and explanation of trends
* recognition of the limitations of the investigation
* unexpected, surprising, or frustrating findings and/or other reflections on the learning
* suggestions of possible future trends and/or social action.

For this assessment type, students provide evidence of their learning in relation to the following assessment design criteria:

* knowledge and understanding
* investigation and analysis
* evaluation and communication.

Knowledge and Understanding

The specific features are as follows:

KU1 Knowledge and understanding of different aspects of and issues related to contemporary societies and cultures, in local and global contexts.

KU2 Knowledge and understanding of the nature and causes of social change.

KU3 Understanding of ways in which societies and cultures are connected and interdependent.

Investigation and Analysis

The specific features are as follows:

IA1 Investigation and analysis of different aspects of and issues related to contemporary societies and cultures, in local and global contexts.

Evaluation and Communication

The specific features are as follows:

EC1 Evaluation and use of evidence from a range of sources and perspectives, with appropriate acknowledgment of sources.

EC2 Communication of informed ideas about societies and social and cultural issues.