HKDSE
Independent Enquiry Study

First and Second Stages

Assessment Requirements and Marking Guidelines

February 2009
What is IES?

Enquiry Topic

Data collection

Data and Findings Analysis
First Stage: Project Proposal
Assessment Framework

- Weighting: 25%
- Half for “Process” and half for “Product”
- Product: Project Proposal (written form)
Task Description

- Focusing questions, aspects and/or hypothesis raised pertaining to the issue of enquiry
- Multiple perspectives identified when exploring the issue concerned
- Materials and background information identified
- Concepts and knowledge studied
- Plan and method(s) proposed for the enquiry, with foreseeable limitations
Project Proposal – Items

- Title and description
- Background information, related concepts and knowledge
- Objectives/ Expected outcomes
- Focusing questions
- Tentative enquiry plan and methods
- Reflection
- Reference

A suggested form is provided
Marking Guidelines

High Performance (7 – 9 marks)

- Define the scope of project with **appropriate** focusing questions and/or hypothesis, addressing **relevant** aspects of the issue concerned
- Identify **multiple perspectives** for exploring the issue concerned
- Identify **relevant** materials and background information
- Identify **relevant** concepts and knowledge related to the issue concerned
- Develop a **comprehensive and well-organized** plan and method for the project considering foreseeable limitations
Marking Guidelines

Low Performance (1 – 3 marks)

- Define the scope of project with less appropriate focusing questions and/or hypothesis, addressing limited relevant aspects of the issue concerned
- Identify limited perspectives for exploring the issue concerned
- Identify limited relevant materials and background information
- Identify limited relevant concepts and knowledge related to the issue concerned
- Develop a barely comprehensive and loosely organized plan and method for the project without considering foreseeable limitations
Uses of the Project Proposal Form

- As a tool for:
  - Teaching and learning
  - Feedback giving
  - Improvement
  - Record keeping
  - Authentication
  - Assessment
Common pitfalls – Title

- Too vague
- Too ambitious
- Too broad
- Undefined concepts
- Too descriptive / not controversial
- Personalized
- Lack of information
Common Pitfalls – Enquiry Methods

- Basis & Assumptions
  - Assumptions/ Rationale behind may not be valid (e.g. Would most of the students of junior forms have experiences of dating?)

- Methods and Design
  - Inappropriate; make results not useful/ meaningless
  - Not practical/infeasible
  - Unethical or hazardous
Too Vague

- 「青少年對同性婚姻合法化的看法」
- 「中學生對三三四課程改革的看法」

✓ Aim of the research project?
✓ The meaning(s) of “views” in the title?
✓ Descriptive only? Views Collection?
Descriptive

- 「外國電影在香港廿一世紀的轉變」
- 「香港乒總的發展歷史」
- 「狗與狗主的情誼締結」
- 「香港街道賣藝情況」
- 「紙紮行業的興衰情況」

✓ Can’t see the controversy (if any)
Too Ambitious

Casual Analysis

「電子遊戲與學業成績的關係；目的：研究學生的學業成績是否與玩電子遊戲成正比例，即是玩電子遊戲越多是否會導致學業成績差；方法：問卷調查及親身訪問」

✓ Explanatory factor and dependent factor?
✓ Intervening factors?
✓ Methods of identifying the causal relationship?
Too Ambitious

Longitudinal Study (Time Factor)

「探討八十年代與現今預科生之素質比較，並加以分析及建議；對象：80年代和現今的預科生」

✓ Comparable?
✓ Availability of sufficient information for analysis?
Too Ambitious

Scale and Manageability of the Research Project

「電視劇下的香港人：分析市民收看電視劇集的模式和習慣，如何塑造他們的價值觀及影響他們待人處事的態度」

✓ Time and resources management?
✓ Problems in data collection and analysis?
✓ Limitation of the chosen research methods (e.g. questionnaire)?
Undefined Concept

「探討香港中學生對報章內容帶有迷信色彩報導的態度及影響：透過收集報紙來分析，探討報章在迷信色彩的渲染下，香港中學生心態的改變及對其影響」

✓ Different interpretations
## Project Scope: Broad Vs Focused

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad</th>
<th>Better</th>
<th>Focused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>教授與學習的情況</td>
<td>本地的國際學校與一般文法中學在教學與學方面的不同處</td>
<td>比較本地國際學校與一般文法中學在初中社會科的教學模式／課程內容的異同</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>人口老化問題</td>
<td>供長者使用的社區設施</td>
<td>某區提供予長者的康健設施是否足夠</td>
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</tbody>
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Guiding/Focusing Questions

- Big Topic: Environmental protection on today society
- Smaller topic: Use of plastic bags for shopping
- Possible focusing questions:
  - What is the current situation of retail shops (in a certain district) issuing plastic bags to customers?
  - What are the attitudes of Hong Kong people in using plastic bags for shopping?
  - What are the attitudes of Hong Kong people towards the imposition of plastic bag tax?
Guiding/Focusing Questions

- Direct your research in a meaningful way
- Give you a research focus
- Can have empirical data and evidence
Second Stage: Data Collection
Assessment Framework

- Weighting: 25%
- Half for “Process” and half for “Product”
- Product: Data Collection (written form)
Task Description

- Tools designed/deployed for collecting data
- Implementation of the plan for data collection
- Data quality in terms of usefulness for the enquiry
- Record of the data collection process
- Editing and organization of the data (such as checking, sorting, listing and provision of simple summary statistics)
Data Collection - Items

- Descriptions of tools/methods adopted for collecting data
- Rationale for choosing the tools/methods
- Enquiry diary
- Record of data collection process
- Editing and organization of data collected

A suggested form is provided
Assessment Framework

High Performance (7 – 9 marks)

- Design/Deploy appropriate tool(s) for collecting data
- Implement the plan of enquiry in an organized manner, review the plan constantly and handle foreseeable problems with contingencies appropriately
- Collect highly useful data for the enquiry
- Provide a complete record of data and collection process
- Edit and organize the data in a well-structured manner
Assessment Framework

Low Performance (1 – 3 marks)

- Design/Deploy less appropriate tool(s) for collecting data
- Implement the plan of enquiry in a loosely organized manner, review the plan infrequently and handle foreseeable problems with contingencies less appropriately
- Collect marginally useful data for the enquiry
- Provide a barely complete record of data and collection process
- Edit and organize the data in a less structured manner
Thank You!