Stage 2 Earth and Environmental Science

Program 2: Assessment Type 1: Investigations Folio

Field Investigation

The aim of this investigation is to collect data that will help answer a question about the effect of a variable, such as salinity, water flow rate, flooding, introduced species) on an ecological characteristic of a wetland, (such as the distribution of a particular species in the area, acid-sulfate levels in the soil or native fish populations)

Students work in groups to make observations and collect data in an allocated section of a wetland. The sampling techniques chosen will depend on the question under investigation.

Each student individually analyses the data and presents a report, drawing on data collected from fieldwork and other sources.

The practical/field report should include:

* introduction with relevant earth and environmental concepts and either a hypothesis and variables or an investigable question
* materials/apparatus\*
* method/procedure outlining the steps to be taken\*
* identification and management of safety and/or ethical risks\*
* results\*
* analysis of results, identifying trends, and linking results to concepts
* evaluation of procedures and data, and identifying sources of uncertainty
* conclusion, with justification.

The report should be a maximum of 1500 words if written, 9 minutes for an oral presentation or the equivalent in multimodal form.

\*The four asterisked sections (materials/apparatus, method/procedure, ethical risks, and results) are excluded from the word count.

This field report is to be attached to this task sheet and submitted electronically.

**Performance Standards for Stage 2 Earth and Environmental Science**

| - | **Investigation, Analysis, and Evaluation** | **Knowledge and Application** |
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| **A** | Designs a logical and coherent earth and environmental science investigation with detailed justification.  Obtains, records, and represents data, using appropriate conventions and formats accurately and highly effectively.  Systematically analyses and interprets data and evidence to formulate logical conclusions with detailed justification.  Critically and logically evaluates procedures and their effect on data. | Demonstrates deep and broad knowledge and understanding of a range of earth and environmental science concepts.  Develops and applies earth and environmental science concepts highly effectively in new and familiar contexts.  Critically explores and understands in depth the interaction between science and society.  Communicates knowledge and understanding of earth and environmental science coherently, with highly effective use of appropriate terms, conventions, and representations. |
| **B** | Designs a well-considered and clear earth and environmental science investigation with reasonable justification.  Obtains, records, and represents data, using appropriate conventions and formats mostly accurately and effectively.  Logically analyses and interprets data and evidence to formulate suitable conclusions with reasonable justification.  Logically evaluates procedures and their effect on data. | Demonstrates some depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding of a range of earth and environmental science concepts.  Develops and applies earth and environmental science concepts mostly effectively in new and familiar contexts.  Logically explores and understands in some depth the interaction between science and society.  Communicates knowledge and understanding of earth and environmental science mostly coherently, with effective use of appropriate terms, conventions, and representations. |
| **C** | Designs a considered and generally clear earth and environmental science investigation with some justification.  Obtains, records, and represents data, using generally appropriate conventions and formats with some errors, but generally accurately and effectively.  Undertakes some analysis and interpretation of data and evidence to formulate generally appropriate conclusions with some justification.  Evaluates procedures and some of their effect on data. | Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of a general range of earth and environmental science concepts.  Develops and applies earth and environmental science concepts generally effectively in new or familiar contexts.  Explores and understands aspects of the interaction between science and society.  Communicates knowledge and understanding of earth and environmental science generally effectively, using some appropriate terms, conventions, and representations. |
| **D** | Prepares the outline of an earth and environmental science investigation.  Obtains, records, and represents data, using conventions and formats inconsistently, with occasional accuracy and effectiveness.  Describes data and undertakes some basic interpretation to formulate a basic conclusion.  Attempts to evaluate procedures or suggest an effect on data. | Demonstrates some basic knowledge and partial understanding of earth and environmental science concepts.  Develops and applies some earth and environmental science concepts in familiar contexts.  Partially explores and recognises aspects of the interaction between science and society.  Communicates basic earth and environmental science information, using some appropriate terms, conventions, and/or representations. |
| **E** | Identifies a simple procedure for an earth and environmental science investigation.  Attempts to record and represent some data, with limited accuracy or effectiveness.  Attempts to describe results and/or interpret data to formulate a basic conclusion.  Acknowledges that procedures affect data. | Demonstrates limited recognition and awareness of earth and environmental science concepts.  Attempts to develop and apply earth and environmental science concepts in familiar contexts.  Attempts to explore and identify an aspect of the interaction between science and society.  Attempts to communicate information about earth and environmental science. |