

Stage 1 RESEARCH PRACTICES



ASSESSMENT TYPE 1 FOLIO

Students undertake at least two tasks for the folio. At least one task should focus on 'Exploring Research Approaches', and at least one task should focus on 'Exploring Research Skills'.

For the folio, students demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the purpose of research and of research approaches. They develop, experiment with, and apply specific research skills and techniques for specific purposes.

A folio task could take the form of, for example:

- an annotated survey, explaining the purpose of each question
- a mock interview, demonstrating a variety of techniques (e.g. what works, what does not work)
- a report on the key findings on a research question, from the perspectives of two different research approaches
- a fieldwork report, using tables and graphs to display findings
- a report on cases of unethical practices that have occurred in some research
- a report on the limitations of a chosen research method to answer a specific research question.



ASSESSMENT TYPE 2 SOURCES ANALYSIS

Students undertake at least two sources analysis assessments. They consider the appropriateness, uses, and limitations of sources.

Sources may be selected by the teacher or student, and may be primary or secondary sources. Students may select for analysis a source that they have researched or have developed themselves.

A sources analysis assessment could take the form of, for example:

- a multimodal presentation, analysing the reliability of one or more sources
- a review of different sources from different perspectives
- a critical analysis and interpretation of data
- an oral presentation, justifying the selection of particular sources and evaluating their relevance to the research.

Knowledge and Understanding

The specific features are as follows:

KU1 Knowledge and understanding of the purpose of research.

KU2 Knowledge and understanding of research approaches.

Development

The specific feature is as follows:

D1 Development of specific research skills.

Analysis

The specific features are as follows:

A1 Consideration of the appropriateness, uses, and limitations of specific sources.

A2 Interpretation and analysis of information and data.

Content

Stage 1 Research Practices is a 10-credit subject.

In this subject, students explore a range of research approaches and skills. They learn that different approaches to research are appropriate to different contexts and purposes.

Teachers and students select, for focused study, at least one topic from each of the following areas of study:

- Exploring Research Approaches
- Exploring Research Skills.

The topics may be integrated, undertaken in parallel, or undertaken consecutively.

They can be taught through the development of, for example:

- an investigation
- a performance
- a product
- an inquiry
- a research project.

The study of a topic may be linked to a theme, context, or area of interest.

The examples in each topic are suggestions and are not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive.

Exploring Research Approaches

Topic 1: The Purpose of Research

In this topic students explore the purpose of research in various contexts, and develop an understanding of the role of research in our lives.

Students have opportunities to explore how small-scale and large-scale research is conducted for specific purposes.

Topic 2: Research Methods

In this topic students develop conceptual understandings of some common approaches to research. The emphasis is on the use of appropriate methods to answer students' research questions, in the two fundamental approaches to research:

- qualitative research
- quantitative research.

Topic 3: Research and Twenty-first Century Skills

In this topic students understand and develop twenty-first century skills (e.g. employability skills, capabilities).

Topic 4: Researchers in Society

In this topic students explore the work of different researchers in society.

Exploring Research Skills

Students learn about and develop specific research skills in one or more of the following phases of research: planning, development, synthesis, and review and evaluation.

Topic 1: Planning

Topic 2: Development

Topic 3: Synthesis

Topic 4: Review and Evaluation