

Creating your Geography Extended Essay Title and Research Question

The Extended Essay is your opportunity to demonstrate a range of skills to produce an independent and in-depth study.

This document will help ensure you are planning an Extended Essay that is achievable and will allow you to access the highest grade descriptions:

Before you start:

- Read the Geography subject specific Extended Essay information? (Available from your teacher.)
- Read the Geography focused Extended Essay assessment criteria? (Available from your teacher.)
- Read a previous quality Geography extended essay? (Available from the school library or teacher.)

You need to create a title, then a research question and present both with a substantial secondary data set or primary data collection plan.

Start:

You need to have a 'title' that frames your Extended Essay, such as "*Differences in quality of life in the city of Geneva, Switzerland*".

Your Title:

- Is it obviously a Geography Extended Essay? If not - refine it ⬆
- Is it spatially (place) focused? If not - refine it ⬆
- Can geographical concepts, theories or ideas be applied to it? If not - refine it ⬆
- Are geographical sources available? If not - change the topic ⬆

Now you need to produce a research question:

The research question must be sharply focused and effective treatment must be possible within 4000 words, such as “*To what extent does the quality of life in selected communes in the city of Geneva vary with distance from Lake Lemman*”.

Your research question:

- Is it worth asking? If not - refine it ⬆
- Is it answerable in 40 hours of work / 4000 words of writing? If not - refine it ⬆
- Is it sharply focused? If not - refine it ⬆
- Does it encourage an investigative approach? If not - refine it ⬆
- Will it encourage written analysis, interpretation, evaluation and the development of an argument? If not - refine it ⬆
- Does it reconfirm the spatial context mentioned in the title? If not - refine it ⬆
- Is it phrased as a proposition, statement for discussion or a testable hypothesis? If not - refine it ⬆

Evidence of a substantial secondary data set or primary data collection plan:

Before your title and research question will be agreed by your supervisor it is necessary to demonstrate that you have access to enough substantial secondary data or that you have a practical and efficient primary data collection scheme planned.

If you are using secondary data as the basis of your Extended Essay you need to be able to ‘add value’ to it by analysing it, interpreting it, graphing and/or mapping it. If you are using primary data as the basis of your Extended Essay you need to outline what data you are going to collect, the data collection techniques you will be using and the location of your data collection sites.

Please demonstrate the above to your supervisor! Good luck!