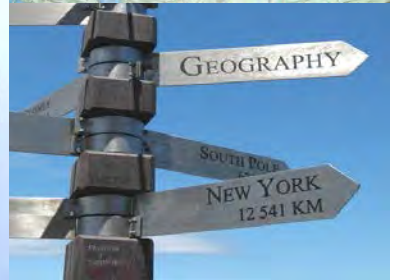


## A-Level Geography

# Geographical Skills and Fieldwork Investigations

PMT Education

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## Geographical Fieldwork Tips

- Use different types of geographical information: **qualitative** and **quantitative** data, primary and **secondary** data, images, texts, digital data as well as **numerical** and **spatial** data.
- BE **CRITICAL!** Why would you use one source over another? Relate your answer to these concepts:
  - **Bias:** Are there vested interests involved? Why is the writer creating the source?
  - **Reputability:** Who wrote it?
  - **Validity:** Do other sources state similar information?
  - **Date of Production:** Was it recent and thus more accurate?
  - **Relevance:** Do you need it? Why?
  - **Quality of References:** Is information from good sources?
  - **Accuracy:** Does the information seem correct?
- **Collect, analyse** and **interpret** information and demonstrate your ability of understanding tasks and data.
- Be conscious of your data **presentation**, the ability to identify **sources** of **error** and how you write your methodologies. Be **clear** and **concise**.
- **EVALUATE** for top marks. Evaluation is the highest level of thinking so **evidence** you can do it! Think about whether there were any **problems** in your fieldwork and how you would change the investigation if you did it again. Why might someone **disagree** with your conclusions and how would you respond to them?
- Bring in case **studies** from the wider world and think about how they link to your small **scale** investigation. If your conclusions were **extrapolated** to the wider world, what would that mean?
- **Reference** well known theories to strengthen your arguments. Use geographical **models** to demonstrate your knowledge of geography and how you can manipulate data to produce new **conclusions**.

## Geographical Skills

These are some skills, techniques and tips you can use when planning your investigation. For top marks, remember you do not have to do everything. Quality never quantity.

### → Core skills:

- Use of annotated maps and images.
- Create sketch maps, Ordnance Survey maps, diagrams, graphs, field sketches, photographs and digital imagery.
- Use overlays on your maps to acknowledge the complexities and patterns of your fieldwork.
- Use numerical techniques to identify patterns and anomalies in your data.
- Carry out questionnaires and interviews.

### → Cartographic skills:

- Ability to use atlas maps, weather maps, synoptic diagrams.
- Maps showing movement – flow lines, trip lines, desire lines.
- Maps showing spatial patterns – choropleth, isoline and dot maps.

### → Graphical skills:

- Line graphs
- Bar graphs – make them more complex by making them comparative or compound.
- Scatter graphs – create a line of best fit and describe the correlation and whether there are any anomalies and why these occurred.
- Pie charts – good for understanding proportions within a population

### → Statistical skills:

- Measures of central tendency – mean, mode and median
- Measure of dispersion – range, interquartile range, standard deviation
- Complex statistical techniques involve – Spearman's rank, hypothesis testing, significance tests

### → ICT skills:

- Use remotely sensed data
- Make your investigations more efficient by using spreadsheets to organise databases, produce graphs and calculate statistical measures.