

HSIE

Year 11 Geography

Task 3: Geographical Investigation

Task Name: Geographical Investigation	Unit: Geographical Investigation
Task Distributed: Week 6	Task Due: 2 nd July 2026 (Week 11)
Task Type: Fieldwork and project.	Syllabus Outcomes: GE11-01, GE11-02, GE11-05, GE11-06, GE11-07, GE11-08 and GE11-09.
Task Weighting: 30%	Task number for Course: 3

Task Description:

This task focuses on the nature of geographical inquiry and its application to a practical research project. As part of this task, you are required to:

Step 1 – Identify the research focus

The issue must relate to the Year 11 course and be in a geographical area accessible for collecting primary data. The issue should be based on a topic that interests you, is significant, is related to the geography syllabus, can be completed in the time provided, and is framed as a question and hypothesis that is legal and safe. This task is to be completed individually.

Step 2 – Develop geographical questions and formulate a plan

Identify the issue and the questions to be answered as part of the geographical investigation. Make a plan that includes the data and information you need and a plan for investigating with the required materials.

Step 3 – Collect, record and process primary data

This includes conducting your OWN fieldwork. Critically review the plan and make relevant changes when necessary. This will be conducted in consultation with your teacher. You will visit the locations that are part of your Geographical Investigation and begin the collection of primary data. This may include using geographical tools such as photographs, observations, surveys, weather observations, maps, and sketches. The primary data collected should be used to answer the geographical questions you have developed.

Step 4 – Organise and process secondary information

Access a range of secondary sources, such as online articles, academic journals, government reports, and social media posts related to your geographical investigation topic. The information collected will support your primary data when answering the investigation questions. You must also

include a correctly formatted bibliography. This must be completed using the Harvard referencing format and included as a separate document.

Step 5 – Present and communicate findings

Create a concise summary of the research findings, addressing the inquiry questions and highlighting any implications. Use a range of visual aids, such as graphs, tables, and maps, to illustrate the findings effectively. Present your Geographical Investigation in one of the following formats: written, oral, graphical or multimodal.

Step 6 – Propose recommendations for individual and/or collective action

Summarise the findings and provide key recommendations for actions focusing on clarity, conciseness, and persuasiveness. Assess the feasibility, impact, and potential consequences of each action.

Step 7 – Critically review the plan, process and findings of the investigation

Reflect on each step of the investigation. Evaluate any challenges faced and explain how they have been overcome. With hindsight, what might you have done differently?

Formative tasks will provide relevant feedback, guidance and support throughout the project.

Your formative tasks will be in the following format:

Week 6 (31.05.2026)- Proposal for your geographical investigation.

This includes a 100-word description of your research focus for the investigation and the format you will use to present your findings.

Week 7 (7.6.2026) - Plan for your primary research.

This includes an outline of the methods you will use to collect and organise your primary research and an explanation of how these methods will support your investigation.

Week 8 (14.6.2026) - Evidence of secondary research.

This includes evidence of your secondary research and your in-progress bibliography. A scaffold will be provided to support this process.

Week 9 (21.6.2026) - Consolidation of research.

This allows students to gain feedback on their primary and secondary research.

Week 10 (28.6.2026) - Final draft.

This is an opportunity for students to gain feedback on their geographical investigation before it is due the following week.

NESA Glossary of Key Words

- Explain: Relate cause and effect; make the relationships between things; provide why and/or how
- Assess: Make a judgement of value, quality, outcomes, results or size
- Understand the verb associated with the task. The verb will provide an understanding of the detail needed to answer the question successfully.

- Check the NESA Glossary of Key Words
<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-student-guide/glossary-keywords>

Details of Submission:

The Geographical Investigation, bibliography included, must be submitted to Google Classroom by 5 pm on 2nd July 2026.

Assessment Procedures

All students should be fully aware of the school assessment procedures. Students should access their 2026 Assessment Guide for more information.

Feedback provided

- The task will be typically returned to students within two school weeks of the submission date.
- At this time, feedback, including information on improvement, will be delivered through mechanisms such as marking criteria and/or written comments.
- Students can clarify or seek further feedback by meeting with their teacher.

Self-Reflection Component

Students will be required to complete a self-reflection worksheet at the time students receive their assessment mark and teacher feedback. Self-reflection is an important part of the learning process as it provides an opportunity to reflect on the strength of your performance, as well as areas that have been identified to strengthen in future tasks.

What Areas of Learning will this Assessment Task Report On?

Students will gather skills to be able to investigate geographically by:

- formulating a plan and asking geographical questions for active inquiry, such as:
 - what is the extent of the investigation?
 - when does the research need to be finished?
 - how much time should be allocated to the research each week/month?
- identifying a research focus for the investigation
- organising a plan of investigation
- gathering and processing relevant primary and secondary data
- critically reviewing the plan, the process and the findings of the investigation.

Marking Criteria:

Criteria:	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses an extensive range of geographical inquiry skills and tools, including fieldwork and ethical practices, to investigate places and environments.• Collects, selects and organises a range of primary data and secondary geographical information from a variety of sources.• Comprehensively and effectively applies a variety of mathematical ideas and techniques to analyse geographical data.• Clearly communicates detailed geographical understanding using geographical knowledge, concepts, terms and tools in multiple forms.• Presents findings in a sustained, logical and well-structured response.	21-25
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a range of geographical inquiry skills and tools, including fieldwork and ethical practices, to investigate places and environments.• Collects, selects and organises appropriate primary data and secondary geographical information from a variety of sources.• Effectively applies a variety of mathematical ideas and techniques to analyse geographical data.• Communicates geographical understanding using geographical knowledge, concepts, terms and tools in a range of forms.• Presents findings in a sustained, logical and well-structured response.	16-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses geographical inquiry skills and tools, including fieldwork and ethical practices, to investigate places and environments.• Collects, selects and organises primary data and secondary geographical information from multiple sources.• Applies mathematical ideas and techniques to analyse geographical data.• Communicates geographical understanding using geographical knowledge, concepts, terms and tools in appropriate forms.• Presents findings in a logical and well-structured response.	11-15
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses some geographical inquiry skills and tools to investigate places and environments.• Collects primary data and secondary geographical information from an identified source.• Uses mathematical ideas or techniques to communicate geographical data.• Communicates geographical understanding using appropriate forms.• Presents findings in a submitted response.	6-9
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a limited range of geographical inquiry skills and tools to investigate places and environments.• Collects basic primary data or secondary geographical information.• Applies a mathematical idea or technique to communicate geographical data.• Communicates geographical understanding using geographical terms.	1-5

Bibliography:

Criteria:	Marks
A correctly formatted bibliography includes an extensive range of resources and research.	5
A correctly formatted bibliography includes a wide range of resources and research.	4
A bibliography is included that may be correctly formatted with evidence of wide research.	3
A bibliography is included that may be correctly formatted with evidence of research.	2
A bibliography is included that shows evidence of research.	1