

Mark	Descriptor
0	The student's report does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1	<p>The evidence of personal engagement with the exploration is limited with little independent thinking, initiative or creativity.</p> <p>The justification given for choosing the research question and/or the topic under investigation does not demonstrate personal significance, interest or curiosity.</p> <p>There is little evidence of personal input and initiative in the designing, implementation or presentation of the investigation.</p>
2	<p>The evidence of personal engagement with the exploration is clear with significant independent thinking, initiative or creativity.</p> <p>The justification given for choosing the research question and/or the topic under investigation demonstrates personal significance, interest or curiosity.</p> <p>There is evidence of personal input and initiative in the designing, implementation or presentation of the investigation.</p>

Exploration

This criterion assesses the extent to which the student establishes the scientific context for the work, states a clear and focused research question and uses concepts and techniques appropriate to the Diploma Programme level. Where appropriate, this criterion also assesses awareness of safety, environmental, and ethical considerations.

Mark	Descriptor
0	The student's report does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	<p>The topic of the investigation is identified and a research question of some relevance is stated but it is not focused.</p> <p>The background information provided for the investigation is superficial or of limited relevance and does not aid the understanding of the context of the investigation.</p> <p>The methodology of the investigation is only appropriate to address the research question to a very limited extent since it takes into consideration few of the significant factors that may influence the relevance, reliability and sufficiency of the collected data.</p> <p>The report shows evidence of limited awareness of the significant safety, ethical or environmental issues that are relevant to the methodology of the investigation*.</p>
3–4	<p>The topic of the investigation is identified and a relevant but not fully focused research question is described.</p> <p>The background information provided for the investigation is mainly appropriate and relevant and aids the understanding of the context of the investigation.</p> <p>The methodology of the investigation is mainly appropriate to address the research question but has limitations since it takes into consideration only some of the significant factors that may influence the relevance, reliability and sufficiency of the collected data.</p> <p>The report shows evidence of some awareness of the significant safety, ethical or environmental issues that are relevant to the methodology of the investigation*.</p>