

WRITTEN ASSESSMENT

A 2, 250 word report on the assessment of a group of children, focusing on their understanding of the skills and procedures of scientific investigation

This assignment links closely with your first school-based directed task and should be considered in parallel with it.

It will not be possible for you to analyse children's performance in all aspects of investigation in the time or words available. You must therefore concentrate on just one of the following areas:

- predicting and hypothesising;
- designing and carrying out fair tests;
- obtaining and presenting evidence;
- or considering evidence and evaluating.

You should use a variety of methods to gather information, such as:

- observing the children planning and carrying out their investigations;
- tasks or exercises in specific investigative skills and procedures;
- questioning and discussion of groups and individuals;
- children's written accounts or presentations.

Your assignment will be marked using the criteria following.

Understanding of purposes and processes of science investigations

- You must give, at least, a brief rationale for why you are carrying out a scientific investigation. (N.B. in some circumstances, for instance with very young or inexperienced children, a full investigation may not be desirable. In this case you must provide a rationale for your activity and demonstrate how it relates to the development of investigative skills.)
- You must demonstrate your familiarity with the investigative model as outlined by Feasey and Goldsworthy and show that you can present and adapt it appropriately for the children with whom you are working.

Careful planning of tasks (a major criterion)

- You are strongly advised to concentrate on just one of the areas of skills listed.
- You must show how you designed your lesson to progress and assess your chosen area of science skills.
- How did you take into account the children's prior experience?
- How did you maximise the learning context?

Use of effective questioning and observation strategies (a major criterion)

- What evidence gathering strategies did you employ?
- Why did you choose those strategies?

Selection and interpretation of evidence of children's understanding (a major criterion)

- All lesson plans, supporting materials etc. relevant to the investigation should be included in the appendices you can then quote from them or refer to them when considering the evidence you have gathered.
- You will gain useful ideas about interpretation from the texts listed on the session sheets.
- Don't forget official documentation such as National Curriculum level descriptors.
- It is vital that you analyse the evidence, do not just present it!

Ability and willingness to reflect critically on own understanding and practice

- How reliable was your evidence?

<p>This document can be freely copied and amended if used for educational purposes. It must not be used for commercial gain. The author(s) and web source must be acknowledged whether used as it stands or whether adapted in any way.</p>

Download 4.2 'PGCE Assignment Primary'

- What aspects of your task went well? Why?
- What were the shortcomings?
- How would you modify your approach in future?

Structure, clarity and standards of English

- Word-process your assignment.
- Check it carefully for spelling, grammar and clarity.
- Use a plain font, size 10 or 12 points, double-spaced.
- Present it in a soft-backed, thin folder with the pages accessible for writing on i.e. not in transparent wallets.

Appropriate reading and study

- Your work must be supported by appropriate reading.
- This should be referenced in the text using the system in your study guide.
- There should be a bibliography of referenced texts (only) in the appendices.
- Aim for a short, well-chosen and utilised, bibliography rather than pointless length.

In addition, remember! the assignment should be apposite.

- 2,250 words is not much, don't waste words on "flannel"
- Supporting information should go in appendices (these do not count towards the word limit)
- The 2,250 words should be your original ideas, don't waste words on lengthy quotations, chunks of the national curriculum etc. Any quotations made should support or exemplify aspects of your own script.
- You should also refer carefully to the generic assessment guidelines in your course handbook. These provide the framework within which we apply the specific criteria outlined above.

RESUBMISSION OF FAILED ASSIGNMENTS

In the event of your failing the assignment you will have to resubmit a further piece of work. This will normally involve completing a further report to the same title and criteria but with a different group of children. You should arrange the details of this with your science tutor.

This document can be freely copied and amended if used for educational purposes. It must not be used for commercial gain. The author(s) and web source must be acknowledged whether used as it stands or whether adapted in any way.