

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Paper 8660/01

Research Projects 1 and 2

General comments

The Research Projects submitted this session, the final June session for this syllabus, covered a range of syllabuses, including History, English Literature, Business Studies, Economics and Marine Science. However, History topics were by far the most popular.

As in previous sessions, Examiners were pleased with the standard of presentation and the amount of work that had clearly been put in by the candidates to make these projects worthwhile and enjoyable to read. There were some excellent pieces of work submitted, with an improved overall standard compared to last June.

The Research Projects are assessed under three main criteria: Knowledge and Understanding; Research/Skills and Evaluation.

Knowledge and Understanding: There were examples of good knowledge and understanding throughout. Most projects contained original research with supporting evidence. Writing throughout was generally competent, drawing sound conclusions. Although, in one or two cases, candidates did not manage to address the question they originally set out to answer.

Research/Skills: There was a reasonable range of footnotes but in some projects these lacked page references. Source citation was sound, but in some cases the sources were simply listed with no indication that they have been used. Where first hand research was carried out, there was good experiment design and control of variables, as well as sensible replication in the sciences and the use of interviews in business subjects.

Evaluation: Design of projects was generally good. However, more thought could have been given in some cases. In order to gain higher marks, candidates needed to draw conclusions supported by evidence. The better candidates evaluate their work throughout rather than leaving it to a section at the end.

The final examination session for the Research Projects (8660) will be in **November 2010**.

