

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Paper 8660/01,02

Paper 1

General comments

Projects submitted this session covered a range of subjects including Environmental Management, History, English Literature and Biology. There were some excellent pieces of work, and even those which did not score so highly clearly showed a great deal of thought and research having been undertaken by the candidates.

In most cases the candidates and teachers had obviously read the *Guide to Research Projects* booklet and followed the advice given. Where lower marks were scored it was mainly due to a lack of research into the subject.

The presentation of the projects was generally very good, and it was clear that a great deal of work and effort had been put into them. The examiners were pleased with the range of different subjects covered and enjoyed reading the projects.

Centres wishing to submit Research Projects are directed to the *Guide to Research Projects* booklet and the advice contained in it. The Research Projects are best when the focus is narrow and there is a clearly stated aim or question to be answered. Centres are also requested to follow the administrative procedures detailed in the booklet, as this makes life easier for both CIE and the Centres, allows problems to be corrected at an early stage, and avoids candidates submitting work that does not meet the criteria. It is particularly important that Centres note the following which is taken from the Introduction in the *Guide to Research Projects* booklet.

*Research Projects are provided by CIE at AS level and are primarily intended to replace coursework where that option is not available but candidates may wish to pursue personal investigations. Where Centres and candidates wish to make proposals concerning Research Project topics in such subjects, they should complete the attached pro-forma. If candidates wish to submit a Research Project in a subject which has previously not had a coursework option, or in a subject for which the candidate is not entered, then the Centre should contact CIE before starting teaching, with a detailed outline proposal to discuss the feasibility and practical details. Research Projects will **not** be allowed in any subject where there is a coursework option available.*

This year Research Projects were submitted on Environmental Management issues, where there is a coursework element to the course. These entries were from candidates who were not taking that AS course, but had submitted proposals to show they would receive support, and so were accepted. Unfortunately some other candidates submitted Research Projects for this subject without contacting CIE first. These candidates were also entered for AS Environmental Management, where there is coursework, and so could not be accepted. Indeed one candidate submitted the same piece of work for both AS Research Projects and Environmental Management. This is **not** allowed.

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