

# RESEARCH PROJECTS

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Papers 8660/01 and 8660/02

Papers 1 and 2

## General comments

Projects submitted this session covered a range of subjects including English Literature, Spanish Literature, Chemistry, History and Business Studies.

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 enjoyable to read.

Unfortunately, some candidates had not entirely taken on board the comments made by the Examiners regarding their initial proposals. The comments are provided for guidance to help candidates achieve the best possible mark for their efforts, and whilst it is not compulsory to heed the comments, it is certainly advisable to do so. Despite this, it was pleasing to see that the candidates and teachers had obviously read the *Guide to Research Projects* booklet and followed the advice given. Careful time planning by Centres is necessary if the candidates are to achieve well on their projects. It is strongly recommended that Centres make candidates aware of the assessment criteria so that their Research Projects can reflect how marks are awarded. Marks are awarded on the basis of three criteria, knowledge and understanding; skills research/enquiry; evaluation. Frequently there is an over-emphasis on one criterion, often knowledge and understanding, while the other criteria receive too little attention.

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.*