

Content

Competitions Geography: a variety of approaches

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- Publicise, Promote, Popularise!
- Range of current Geography Competitions
- Reason for focus on Year 13
- Alignment of competition criteria with AS90705 and AS90706
- How to achieve Excellence
- An overview of research approaches
- Conclusion

Range of Current Geography Competitions

- Year 11 national and international
- Year 12
- Year 13 – in preparation for the RSNZ 'Realise the Dream'

Reason for focus on Year 13

- Comparison of criteria for AS90705 and AS90706; NZTA Year 13 Geography competition and 'Realise the Dream'
- Focus on 'Realise the Dream'
- Problems with aligning the criteria

How to achieve Excellence

- 'Critically evaluate the research process and findings' – in the AS90705 criteria
- The meaning of 'critically evaluate' in the Explanatory Notes: the ability to develop an evaluation further by examining alternative methods or approaches to research and discussing the implications of such alternatives'

A range of research approaches currently in use

- Quantitative approaches and Perspectives
- Qualitative approaches and Perspectives

Perspectives

- Rejection of Positivism:
 - Feminism and the balance of power
 - Postmodernism
 - Case Studies
 - Ethnography
 - Grounded theory
 - Action Research

Mixed Methods

- Triangulation
 - The findings of one type of study/approach can be checked against the findings deriving from the other type
 - Enhances the validity of the findings
 - One approach facilitates the other
 - A general picture is achieved
 - Perspectives are combined
 - Facilitates the interpretation of relationships between variables
 - A qualitative approaches can be a stage in the research process

Conclusion

- Approaches most useful for secondary school students
- Useful reference books (see Handout)
- Useful definitions (see Handout)