Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component; Project-folio - Geographical Study.

General comment

This candidate has selected a complex geographical topic, that has been well researched and is appropriate to Advanced Higher standard. The candidate focuses on secondary sources to gather, process and analyse data and report findings, resulting in a completed study that is of A standard.

A - Justification

The candidate was awarded **4/4 marks** because information relating to the purpose and relevance of the study topic is clear, coherent and supported by explicit reference to geographical literature.

'growing disparity across the country due to numerous socio-economic factors …population indicators such as life expectancy…can lead to perceptions… measures of disparity'.

'the **purpose**…is to **analyse** perceptions of disparity…and **compare** these perceptions to secondary data using various graphical and statistical techniques.'

Reference to appropriate geographical literature/research is found in the opening paragraph referring to life expectancy and the Glasgow Centre for Population Health.

B – Planning and methodology

The candidate was awarded **7/10 marks** because there is clear and explicit planning for research that is appropriate. Hypotheses were relevant but are reasonable rather than detailed.

Methodology included 'a perception study made up of pre-prepared statements.'

How the perception study is to be conducted is well explained and thought through 'the statements were phrased in this way so the gathered data could be investigated and processed in comparison with the secondary data'.

Reference to relevant sources of information is reasonable, 'much of this secondary data has been produced by government bodies…' However, the sources of information are listed rather than being used to develop the research and planning of the study to produce data to support good analysis.

Six Environmental Quality Surveys (EQS) using a FSC proforma, at randomly selected sample sites, are supported by location maps (maps 2 & 3).

Appropriate secondary data is provided from census data, 'government bodies', Glasgow City Council, Google Maps and Apple App Find my friend.

It would have been appropriate to acknowledge the graphs showing statistical evidence to indicate the source of specific data.

C – Evaluation of research techniques

The candidate was awarded **8/8 marks** because clear and explicit evaluative/reflective comments are made throughout, relating to the research techniques and the relevance and reliability of the data gathered. Strengths and weakness of techniques are discussed and reasoned comments relating to next steps are also included.

'…the statements were phrased in this way so the gathered data could be investigated and processed in comparison with the secondary data.'

'…creating bias as the demographic is unrepresentative of the general public.'

'…if further research was conducted, data would be from a larger group… 'numerical scale…reduce the literal structure…reduce this unintended bias.'

'Reliability is further ensured by maintain the same well-established criteria in each location as a control variable.'

'…secondary data can create problems…may be out-of-date…unreliable… inaccuracies that may exist.'

D – Knowledge and understanding

The candidate was awarded **4/8 marks** because there is evidence of candidate knowledge and understanding that is relevant (urban sociology/models).

'By applying these urban models……perceptions can be contextualised… Alternative models must therefore be considered to give a more realistic depiction…'

Evidence from wider reading was used simplistically and could have been used to support findings from research as well as to analyse and support geographical theory.

E – Processing techniques

The candidate was awarded **6/10 marks** because the techniques are appropriate and valid, albeit some are simple techniques. Techniques are repeated therefore, reducing the range used.

The candidate has used pie charts, divided bar graphs, compound line graphs and table. They have also used a chi-squared statistical test.

F - Analysis

The candidate was awarded **8/12 marks** because all the information that has been gathered and processed has been analysed to identify and explain relationships, whilst reflecting on the hypotheses.

Analysis includes links between different data sets, 'Whilst car ownership remains much lower…for Calton, air pollution is higher…This reveals the environmental disparity faced by the people of Calton as whilst a minority have a car, they are exposed to much higher air pollution'.

Similarities/contradictions between data sets are identified (comparison of pie charts & bar graphs as well as within the evaluation sections).

There is some repetition of analytical comments while the data allows scope for more detailed analysis. The analysis is reasonable but could have been developed within the wider context of the Study. Parts of the analysis are largely descriptive and requiring more explanation.

G - Conclusion

The candidate was awarded **8/8 marks** because they reached a reasoned and valid conclusion, summarising the key elements of the study, supported by evidence.

The candidate also attempts to go beyond a repetition of the analysis with an attempt at some insight into the chosen topic, '…an interesting theme of stereotyping within social geography…'.

The last paragraph attempts to link the findings of the study and provide an overall judgement, '…perceptions do not reflect disparity…these perceptions have been subjected to prejudice or stereotyping'.

Overall mark awarded - 45/60