

Question 1 (c)

This was a good example of a question that was successfully answered by those candidates who carefully read the question. The key word in the question was *meteorological conditions*. This is directly from the 'What students need to learn' part of the specification which states that

'Fieldwork and research using a weather diary and synoptic maps, into meteorological conditions (air masses, pressure systems and fronts) which can influence changes in temperatures, precipitation and winds'.

Unfortunately a substantial minority of candidates ignored these words and gave instead a simple description of how, where and when a weather diary was compiled that was not linked to any of the meteorological conditions listed above. Centres should encourage their candidates to read the 15 mark fieldwork and research questions carefully and not assume that, as the question is similar to a previous question, a model answer prepared for a previous question will necessarily also be given a Level 4 mark. The best answers focused on how their weather diary showed the passage of a depression or the weather associated with an anticyclone. It was not necessary to explain the meteorological conditions, but it was important to link the observations to the meteorological conditions experienced.

This is a Level 4 answer which was awarded 13 marks.

(c) Describe the fieldwork and research **methods** you used to complete a weather diary of meteorological conditions.

(15)

In Autumn of 2013 I used a range of both primary and secondary ~~sources~~ ~~and~~ methods to record the weather occurring across one week. The information ~~was~~ ~~was~~ was collected from a ~~ve~~ sources so I could see the weather systems acting on East Devon.

My fieldwork included creating and using a rain gauge, ~~cat~~ placed in my garden to measure precipitation in millilitres across the week to indicate possibility of a depression. I ~~measured~~ the wind direction and speed. I also used a local weather station which measured the pressure in the area in millibars to see if an area of high or low pressure was acting on the area. It also ~~it~~ recorded the minimum and maximum temperatures daily. I could access ~~the~~ these results online and take a screenshot daily. Lastly, I took a photograph of the sky, twice a day, at the same time every day in the same location. This gave an indication of the weather occurring and allowed me to identify the cloud type which could suggest a warm, cold or occluded front.

My research included recording the weather

forecast from 'www.bbc.co.uk' which suggested the weather expected for the area that the next day. I also recorded the UV recording from the BBC weather section, a measurement at 07:00 that suggested cloud cover and temperature. I took a screenshot of a daily synoptic charts from the Met Office website. These images showed me areas of high and low pressure, cold-warm and occluded fronts and so suggested depressions and anticyclones. I also used media, by looking through both national and local newspapers to see if we had extreme or unusual weather occurred and made headlines and only articles on weather, for example, in The Times, The Sun and The Western Morning News.

The method I used to record this data was a booklet so that I could include images and recordings which I then annotated.

In conclusion, I used a range of methods to complete the weather diary that showed a variety of different weather systems and their impacts on East Devon.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate has described a well-located weather diary with a clear, specific time frame which has a balanced range of fieldwork and research that is linked to meteorological conditions.



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Examiner Tip

The answer was strong on a sense of place but could have been improved by clearly stating how the changing meteorological conditions could have had an impact on the data the candidate collected.