Commentary on candidate 1 evidence

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component.

Geographical Study:
Comparison of an Inner City area and a suburban area: Springburn and Bearsden.

	Commentary	Marks available	Marks awarded
A. Justification	♦ **Relevance** was unclear. ♦ **Purpose** *'I believe this topic is worth learning about because there are obvious differences across the city of Glasgow'.* ♦ **Reference to literature** (UK's Office for National Statistics). This should have been used to set the topic in context relevant to the relevance and purpose of the Study.	4	2
B. Planning	The candidate demonstrated reasonable evidence of planning for research. The research questions are appropriate, although research question 1 is same as Aim of Study. The techniques used include maps, SIMD data, EQS and Place Standard Tool.	10	5
C. Evaluation of research techniques	The information is limited and simplistic *'the EQS is opinionated & I took this survey myself to prevent any bias …'* *'I had initially planned to ask questions to a variation of people but then had to focus on people that were prepared to stop'.* *'I planned to stop people from a varying age group but due to the time of day …, I spoke to anyone prepared to give me answers'.*	8	4
D. Knowledge and understanding	Limited or implicit information has been provided: ♦ 'the average male life expectancy is 80.5 years …; 'the current average price for a house in Bearsden …' ♦ 'Bearsden railway was opened in 1863 …'	8	3
E. Appropriate techniques	The candidate has demonstrated limited range. Bar graph, bi-polar graph, rose diagrams. Images and graphs have been lifted from a secondary source.	10	4

F. Analysis	The candidate has provided limited and simplistic information: ♦ 'this coupled with the open space/greenery allows further evidence supporting the case that Bearsden is a suburban zone'; ♦ 'the tenements suggest that Springburn is an area of inner city feature in terms of building type'; ♦ 'the majority of homes for sale in Springburn are tenements …which pushes Springburn into the inner city category on the urban transect model'.	12	5
G. Conclusion	There is evidence of repetition, with very limited evidence.	8	2
Total		**60**	**25**

Commentary on candidate 2 evidence

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component.

Geographical Study: *Factors affecting biodiversity on Mersehead Nature Reserve.*			
	Commentary	**Marks available**	**Marks awarded**
A. Justification	The candidate justification includes information relating to: The r**elevance** of the Study '*biodiversity is fundamental to the planet's ecology and natural systems'.* The **purpose** of the Study '*there is reason to study further because diversity is reducing …'.* **Explicit reference to geographical literature** that contextualises the topic,' *species populations have decreased by over 52% over the last 40 years'* – WWF Living Planet Report, but this should have then been used to set the topic in context (WWF Living Planet Report).	4	4
B. Planning	The candidate provided clear and explicit evidence of detailed planning, using a wide range of techniques. Stratified sampling for the allocation of sites – used with skill, '*this stratified sampling system is more effective than systematic transect sampling because …whole'.* There are four valid and relevant research questions across ten sites have been used. The techniques used include vegetation type, pH, soil moisture, organic matter and an interview. Evidence of planning is supported by relevant information and figures.	10	10
C. Evaluation of research techniques	The candidate has provided clear and explicit information. Strengths and weaknesses of research techniques are explicitly discussed. **Strengths**: *'an advantage is this method gave reliable pH readings'. ' interviews are advantageous because information gathered is from an expert'*	8	8

	Weaknesses: *'a drawback of this method is that moisture may have been lost from the soil samples prior to testing ….'* ; *' the interviewee may be inclined to present the RSPB positively and give subjective, qualitative data'*. **Reliability of data gathered**: *'the quadrat was randomly placed … three times for each site. This made the data more representative because the average was calculated'*. **Next steps**: *'to investigate this further a greater variety of pH's would have to be sampled'*.		
D. Knowledge and understanding	The candidate uses clear and explicit evidence from wider reading that is used to support findings from research, as exemplified by the theory section that introduces each research question.	8	8
E. Appropriate techniques	The candidate has provided a range of valid techniques that are appropriate: parabolic graphs; scatter graph; flow chart. Spearman's & Pearson's. There is a lack of integration of techniques in the main text, where they would have been more appropriate as Appendices.	10	7
F. Analysis	Analytical points include: ♦ links between data sets gathered and processed ♦ links between data sets and wider context of Study ♦ similarities/contradictions between data sets and related theories. Each research question is clearly and explicitly analysed: ♦ 'large void spaces increase infiltration rate, thus upper horizons lack moisture' ♦ 'this explains why Site 7 has the highest pH …' ♦ 'Site 7 has a low organic matter content due to the sandiness and site 9 has a high organic matter content possibly due to the accumulation of alluvial deposits for the river'; 'the grassland sites have a relatively high biodiversity reading possibly because soil moisture is moderated'.	12	12
G. Conclusion	The candidate summarises the key elements of the Study throughout, as well as at the end: *'specific adaptations are unique …'*; *'the Spearman's value was within 0.02 …'*; *'the OMC results show great variation….'*.	8	8

	The candidate's final conclusion shows some insight into the data, *'Fundamental(ly) all factors are interconnected'*. An overall judgment is also given *'Also by maintaining conditions …'*		
Total		**60**	**57**