



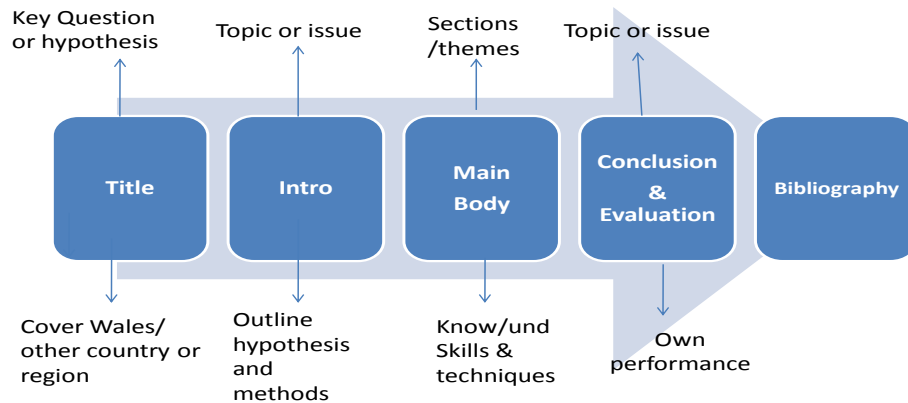
The Individual Investigation

Creating an Assignment brief

Advanced Level

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

There is no such thing as the right way to structure, organise or present an Individual Investigation. One possible framework is set out below.



ACTION PLANNING

Straightforward outline target dates and deadlines can be useful but are **limited** to providing a basic time plan and **will not on their own meet the requirements** of the assessment criteria for planning.

Beginning the Individual Investigation	Target date	Date completed
Stage 1: Research Carrying out research - gathering information		
Stage 2: Presentation Presenting findings - writing up the Individual Investigation		
Stage 3: Conclusion and evaluation Writing up your conclusions, commenting on own performance, checking work.		
Completing Individual Investigation		

BREAKING THE TOPIC DOWN INTO SECTIONS/THEMES

The most effective way to present the main body of the work is to break the topic/issue down and cover material related to Wales and the other country or region in a **thematic** way. This is best done by discussing the Welsh and other example together for each section.

However many students may find this difficult and prefer to deal with each theme separately for Wales and the other country or region.

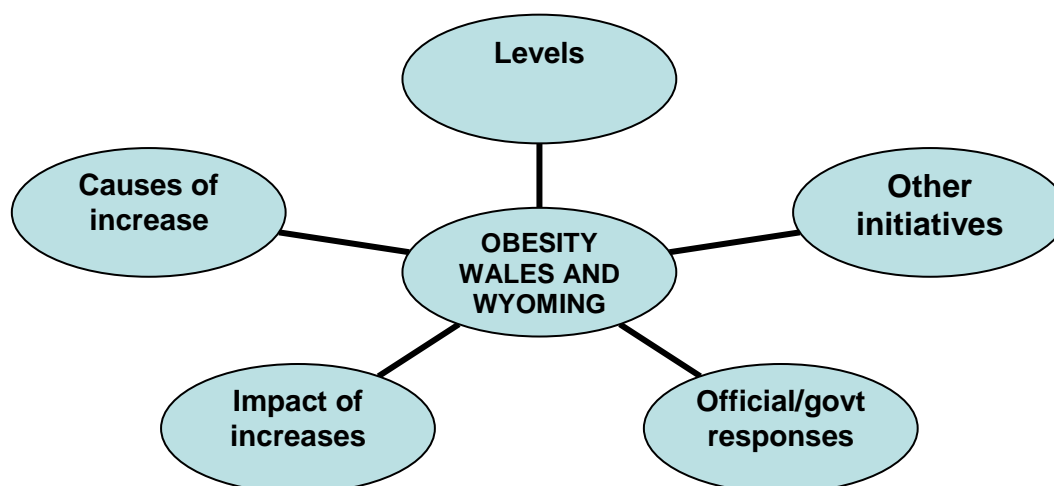
The first method brings the advantage of highlighting **similarities and differences** between the two countries/regions **as the individual Investigation progresses**. If the second method is chosen then points of comparison (similarities and differences) can be included in the conclusion.

It is important to do some preliminary research to establish whether a range of sources of sufficient quality will be available to cover the **perspectives** and **themes** chosen. This research should go beyond the internet.

Consideration should be given to using questionnaires, interviews and other forms of **primary research**. There is no official definition of what constitutes primary and secondary sources. The key is to **find, analyse, evaluate** and **deploy** a range of information from a variety of sources.

Below is an example.

What are the challenges facing Wales and the US state of Wyoming in overcoming increasing levels of obesity among young people and what is being done to meet these challenges?



What are the challenges facing Wales and the US state of Wyoming in overcoming increasing levels of obesity among young people and what is being done to meet these challenges?

Introduction: Sum up the aims of the Individual Investigation and consider the likely outcome of the research i.e. your hypothesis. Outline the research methods you intend to use.

Main Body:

Levels of obesity	The first section would look to present evidence to show that obesity levels in both areas are increasing.
Possible causes of increased levels of obesity	The second section could focus on possible causes of this increase, which may or may not be the same in both e.g. policies towards education generally or PE/after school clubs could be different.
Impact of obesity	Cost in health care (estimated to be \$87m in Wyoming), cost to the economy, standards of living etc.
Government responses	What is the government doing in Wales and Wyoming? Wyoming's rate among kids is the second-lowest in the US. Still, concerns remain for the future since there are no state wide requirements against selling soda and candy in school vending machines.
Other initiatives	In Wyoming, the Obesity Action Coalition is a non profit organisation dedicated to giving a voice to those affected by obesity. The OAC works to spread the important message of the need for obesity education. The Child Obesity Action Network is another organisation.

CONCLUSION AND REVIEW OF OWN PERFORMANCE

In the final review section the student will be considering their performance in all aspects of the Individual Investigation. This will include planning and managing the task generally as well as considering the various stages individually. This will include a consideration of the effectiveness of any research as well as the structure, organisation and presentation of the work.

- What went well and why do you think this was
- What went less well and why do you think this was
- How could you have done better? What would you do differently next time?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

An annotated bibliography can be very effective. This provides the student with an opportunity to consider the relative usefulness of sources. This is an additional opportunity to consider the limitations and reliability of sources and to provide more evidence to support assessment of the assessment criteria related to the 'Use of Sources'.

SOURCE	USEFULNESS AND RELIABILITY
<i>Wyoming_2010 Obesity Fact Sheet.</i>	<p>This could include an assessment of how useful source are in terms of adding to knowledge and understanding of the issue generally. The limitations of sources in terms of adequate covering Wales and other country/region.</p> <p>This could include a brief assessment of sources in terms of possible bias, exaggeration or opinion. The extent to which information is supported by other sources is also important.</p> <p><i>This is an official and reliable information from the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention linked to the US government Department for Health and Human Services.</i></p>
<i>Article from Wyoming Tribute Eagle newspaper</i>	<p><i>This article refers to some useful official figures but is sensationalist in tone. The issue is treated in a sensationalist way to shock people, possibly exaggerating the impact of obesity in order to sell newspapers. In fact Wyoming has the lowest obesity rate in the US.</i></p>