Science as a Human Endeavour (SHE) – Investigation Guidelines

General advice:

* Students should be aware that this is *not* simply a research report
* The subject outline specifies that the investigation is based on the exploration of a *recent discovery, innovation, issue, or advancement linked to one of the* topics in the subject outline. Students should be guided in their selection to ensure that it is both recent and related to a topic in the Stage 1 or Stage 2 subject outline, depending on the subject being undertaken.
* Within the report, students should make explicit reference to one or more of the key concepts of science as a human endeavour as described in the subject outline.
* It should be noted that while students may choose to select a recent issue, they are not required to present different perspectives as in the previous subject outline. They must discuss how the issue investigation illustrates the interaction between science and society.

Frequently asked questions

Do students need to have a question as the basis for their investigation?

* No. Students are not expected to base their report on a question.

How many of the Key Concepts from Science as a Human Endeavour should be addressed?

* The subject outline refers to ‘one or more of the key concepts of science as a human endeavour’. If students try to cover too many key concepts, there is the risk that the report will lack depth. One key concept is sufficient. One or more of the dot points under the key concept(s) may be addressed.

Should students use headings in the report?

* The report can be written with or without headings. Without headings, students may integrate different aspects of the report. For example, the potential impact of an innovation may be integrated with the explanation of how the focus of the report demonstrates the interaction between science and society.

Is there a word count for the different sections of the report?

* No, although students should be advised that the most significant part of their report is their explanation of how the focus of the investigation illustrates the interaction between science and society. This is followed in importance by the relevant science concepts.

If students use a multi-media presentation how many words should be written on the poster/PowerPoint and how long should the presentation take?

Communication using Posters or PowerPoint presentations should have a minimal number of words. An accompanying oral presentation, or discussion, needs to explain the points made on the poster/PowerPoint. The oral should be recorded or provided as a voice over for a PowerPoint to provide evidence of the student work.

Stage 1: The number of words in the PowerPoint could be, for example, 250 words together with a 4 ½ -minute oral. The total must be the equivalent of 1000 words or 6-minutes for an oral presentation.

Stage 2: The number of words in the PowerPoint could be, for example, 500 words together with a 7-minute oral. The total must be the equivalent of 1500 words or 10-minutes for an oral presentation.