



HSC COMMUNITY AND FAMILY STUDIES 2019

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT (IRP)

Due Date:	Assessment Name:
<p>PART A: THE PROJECT PLAN – In an allocated lesson of Week 6</p> <p>PART B: THE PROJECT DIARY – Friday 29th November (Week 7) <i>in class</i> & Monday 16th December (Week 10) <i>with</i> your Research Project by 3.20pm</p> <p>PART C: THE PROJECT – Monday 16th December (Week 10) by 3:20pm</p>	<p>Independent Research Project (IRP)</p>
Mark: /30	Weighting: 20 %

SYLLABUS OUTCOMES TO BE ASSESSED:

H4.1 **Justifies** and **applies** appropriate research methodologies

H4.2 **Communicates** ideas, **debates** issues & justifies opinions

DIRECTIVES TO BE ASSESSED:

Justify – Support an argument or conclusion

Apply – Use, utilise, employ in a particular situation

Communicate - share or exchange information, news, or ideas

Debate - argue about (a subject), especially in a formal manner.

TASK DESCRIPTION:

In class, you have been studying the HSC Core Module ‘Research Methodology’ and explored the *fundamentals of research, research methods and the research process*. You are required to apply these concepts by completing an *Independent Research Project (IRP)* **on a topic of your choice**.

Your IRP topic must be relevant to the Community and Family Studies (CAFS) syllabus and should relate to one or more of the following areas of study:

- Individuals
- Groups
- Families
- Communities
- Resource Management

Part A – Project Plan (5 marks)

The *Project Plan* provides an initial summary and outline of your IRP. It must be computer generated and should meet the requirements for this section. **(Refer to ‘The Project Plan’ scaffold on the next page).**

Part B – Project Diary (5 marks)

You will be required to **communicate** and reflect on your thoughts and experiences throughout the IRP by recording regular entries in a *Project Diary*. Your diary should be a record of the ongoing process and an honest reflection of problems encountered. **(Refer to the “The Project Diary” scaffold on the next page).**

Part C – The Product (20 marks)

Complete an *Independent Research Project (IRP)* as per the syllabus guidelines on a topic of your choice.

Please refer to the “The IRP Product’ scaffold/written report template on page 3 of this notification for specific details on format and presentation requirements.

Assessment Criteria – Student Checklist:

This task will assess your ability to:

- Use appropriate research methodology to investigate a hypothesis.
- Analyse and interpret data from primary and secondary sources.
- Present data in a clear and concise form.
- Draw valid conclusions from the research.
- Carry out research methodologies in an ethical and unbiased manner

SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

PART A: THE PROJECT PLAN/RESEARCH PROPOSAL (5 MARKS)

Present a plan for your IRP that provides an initial summary of the project and an outline of the research process to be undertaken. ***Refer to the points below and the scaffold on page 50 of your Research Methodology booklet for explicit instructions to assist in formulating your research proposal/plan.***

The Project Plan should include:

- initial project areas of interest and prior knowledge of these interested topics
- project topic /focus and possible hypothesis or question/s
- an explanation of the relationship between the focus of the project and the selected course content/areas of study
- a description of appropriate primary research methodologies you intend to use, including the sampling method
- an outline of possible secondary sources of data
- guidelines to address issues such as bias and ethics (relate to choosing appropriate research methodologies)
- a timeline indicating how and when resources will be used. ***Refer to page 52 of your Research Methodology booklet for an example of a timeline.*** (A copy of the timeline can also be inserted into the project diary to easily refer to and check your progress throughout the project).

*You may select how to present your project plan but it

MUST BE COMPUTER GENERATED AND PRINTED*

PART B: THE PROJECT DIARY

The project diary is due in week 5 for a progress check and then the final submission is in week 10, together with 'The Product'. ***The Project Diary should:***

- be completed regularly (at least 3-4 entries per week)
- record values, attitudes and feelings towards the task
- reflect honestly on problems encountered and their solutions?
- record conversations, contacts, readings and sources of secondary data?
- reflect the proposed timeline (roughly) from your project plan?

*You may choose to **complete your diary by hand** (eg. in a notebook)

OR electronically/computer generated*

PART C: THE PRODUCT

Have you followed the following research process from the syllabus (the “learn about” column)?

- Planning for research
 - formulating a research proposal
 - managing resources, e.g. time, materials
- Conducting research
 - accessing sources of data
 - collecting and recording data
 - documenting actions and issues
- Interpreting research
 - presenting research findings
 - analysing research results
 - drawing conclusions

Refer to the “learn to” column of the syllabus for explicit stages involved in the research process.

THE REPORT - (refer to the example uploaded onto Google Classroom.)

You will also be provided with scaffolds throughout the IRP to assist in structuring and formatting your final product. Additionally, you may refer to your unit booklets and the online textbook.

Your product should include the following:

- A cover page – IRP title, author (you), the date and an image
- A **contents page**
- An **Abstract**
- **Acknowledgements**
- An **Introduction** - (brief overview of objectives, research methods used and intended outcomes?)
- **Methodologies**
 - Secondary research (Literature Review)– eg. internet, books, newspapers, electronic, journal articles, podcasts
 - Primary research - eg. survey/questionnaire, case studies, interview, observation
- **Results** – record results from primary research and analyse data (eg. interpret graphs/tables)
- **Analysis** – Analyse both primary and secondary research/data
- A **Conclusion**
- **Recommendations**
- A **Bibliography** (APA or Harvard style)
- An **Appendix** (which includes answered copies of your surveys and any other secondary information you have referenced.)

***THE IRP PRODUCT (due Week 10)**

MUST BE COMPUTER/ELECTRONICALLY GENERATED AND PRINTED*

MARKING CRITERIA

PART A: The Project Plan	Mark/Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research hypothesis or question precisely defined • Demonstrates outstanding prior knowledge on a number of interested topics • Extensively communicates the relationship between the focus of the project and the course content area • Describes the primary and secondary research methodologies in extensive detail. • Demonstrates a deep understanding of bias and ethics in research and can extensively apply it to the project. • Displays expertise in developing a timeline for the management of the research task. • An outstanding number of resources are evident for the development of the project product 	5/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research hypothesis or question was thoroughly defined. • Demonstrates thorough prior knowledge of interested topics • Effectively communicates the relationship between the focus of the project and the course content area. • Describes the primary and secondary research methodologies in thorough detail. • Demonstrates a thorough understanding of bias and ethics in research and can thoroughly apply it to the project. • Displays ability in the development of a timeline for the management of the research task. • Numerous resources are evident for the development of the project product. 	4/B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research hypothesis or question was outlined • Communicates briefly the relationship between the focus of the project and the course content area. • Demonstrates some prior knowledge of interested topics • Describes the primary and secondary research methodologies in sound detail. • Demonstrates a sound understanding of bias and ethics in research and can satisfactorily apply it to the project. • Displays some ability with the development of a timeline for the management of the research task. • A sound number of resources are evident for the development of the project product. 	3/C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research hypothesis or question was defined to a basic standard • Demonstrates limited prior knowledge of interested topics • Basically communicates the relationship between the focus of the project and the course content area. • Briefly describes the primary and secondary research methodologies. • Demonstrates a basic understanding of bias and ethics in research and can briefly apply it to the project • Displays limited ability with development of a timeline for the management of the research task • A limited number of resources is evident for the development of the project product 	2/D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research proposal lacks clarity. • Limited prior knowledge was demonstrated for a interested topic • Establishes a tenuous relationship between the focus of the project and the course content area. • Lists a limited range of primary and secondary research methodologies. • Identifies some basic issues related to bias and ethics in research. • Displays an elementary timeline for the management of the project. • Limited resources were listed. 	1/E

• Section not attempted	0/E

MARKING CRITERIA	
PART B: The Project Diary	Mark/Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely well documented evidence of project development. • Extensively identifies and explains the process for determining the nature of the product. • Critically and extensively documents relevant secondary sources and information. • Numerous and regular entries are made in line with appropriate time line. • Extensive evidence of problem solving to resolve any issues arising. • Documents conversations, readings and relevant contacts in an extremely logical and concise manner 	5/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well documented evidence of project development. • Thoroughly identifies and explains the process for determining the nature of the product. • Critically documents relevant secondary sources and information. • Many regular entries are made in line with appropriate time line. • Thorough evidence of problem solving to resolve any issues arising. • Documents conversations, readings and relevant contacts in a logical and concise manner. 	4/B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound documented evidence of project development. • Identifies a sound range of possible product options. • Documents relevant secondary sources and information with some explanations. • Regular entries are made. • Some evidence of problem solving to resolve any issues arising. • Records descriptive accounts of mostly relevant conversations, readings and contacts 	3/C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic documented evidence of project development. • Briefly identifies and explains the process for determining the nature of the product. • Basically documents relevant secondary sources and information. • Irregular entries are made which were not always in line with appropriate time line. • Limited evidence of problem solving to resolve any issues arising. • Limited documentation of conversations, readings and relevant contacts. 	2/D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vague evidence of project development. • Limited (1 or 2) possible product options. • One or two references made to relevant secondary sources and information. • Irregular entries are made • Little evidence of problem solving to resolve any issues arising. • Incomplete record of conversations and relevant contacts. 	1/E
• Section not attempted	0/E

MARKING CRITERIA

PART C: The Product	Mark/Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collection of data is extremely appropriate to the research proposal. • Product presentation extensively communicates central ideas. • Extensively articulates the intentions of the project and relates specifically to syllabus content area/s. • Effectively acknowledges the relevant sources of support for the completion for the project. • Logical and coherent primary research methodologies are used and are evident in samples provided. • Research data is extensively represented in a clear and concise manner, including numerous graphs, tables etc. Extensive explanations were outlined with each graphs/ table. • Secondary data is analysed, interpreted and interrelated in conjunction with primary research data. • Superior analysis and interpretation of data is demonstrated which effectively communicates relevant information. • Research data is critically analysed to provide a detailed summary and conclusion. • Recommendations demonstrate direct correlation to the purpose of the project. • A comprehensive and extensive bibliography is presented (contains a range of sources). • An appendix contains samples of primary research responses and other relevant information • Presentation is extremely professional. 	<p>17-20 A</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collection of data was appropriate to the research proposal. • Product presentation thoroughly communicates central ideas. • Thoroughly articulates the intentions of the project and relates specifically to syllabus content area/s. • Acknowledges the relevant sources of support for the completion for the project. • Mostly logical and coherent primary research methodologies are used and are evident in samples provided. • Research data is thoroughly represented in a clear and concise manner. The inclusion of numerous graphs, tables, clearly labelled was evident. • Secondary data is mostly analysed, interpreted and interrelated in conjunction with primary research data. • Analysis and interpretation of data is demonstrated which communicates relevant information. • Research data is analysed to provide a somewhat detailed summary and conclusion. • Recommendations demonstrate direct correlation to the purpose of the project. 	<p>13-16 B</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive and thorough bibliography is presented (contains a range of sources). • An appendix contains most samples of primary research responses and other relevant information • Presentation is excellent 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the collection of data is appropriate to the research proposal. • Product presentation communicates one or two central ideas. • Limited discussion of aims of the project and relationship to syllabus content area/s. • Acknowledges some of the relevant sources of support for the completion of the project. • Primary research methodologies demonstrate poor structure, little relevant to the research proposal. • Research data is satisfactorily presented with the inclusion of some graphs/ tables with limited written explanations. • Secondary data is discussed with little depth and understanding with no interrelation to primary research data. • Limited analysis and interpretation of data is demonstrated. • A brief summary and conclusion of one or two relevant points. • Limited number of valid recommendations. • An appendix contains little or no evidence of primary research. 	<p>9-12 C</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some collection of data is appropriate to the research proposal. • Product presentation communicates one central idea. • No discussion of aims of the project and relationship to syllabus content area/s. • Acknowledges some of the relevant sources of support for the completion of the project. • Primary research methodologies demonstrate poor structure, little relevant to the research proposal. • Research data is not clearly presented or is limited in presentation. • Secondary data is discussed with little depth and understanding with no interrelation to primary research data. • Limited analysis and interpretation of data is demonstrated. • A brief summary and conclusion of one or two relevant points. • Limited number of valid recommendations. • A basic bibliography is presented (contains few sources). • An appendix contains little evidence of primary research. 	<p>5-8 D</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate collection of data. • Poor communication of central ideas. • Introduction poor or not included. • Acknowledges some of the relevant sources of support for the completion of the project. • Poor or no evidence of primary research methodologies. • Research data is not presented or has little relevance. • Superficial discussion of one or two sources of secondary data with no interrelationship to primary research data. • Limited or no analysis and interpretation of data. • Basic summary and narrow conclusion with little relevant to the topic. • A limited bibliography is presented (contains few sources). 	<p>1-4 E</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An appendix contained no evidence of primary research.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section not attempted	0 E