

Visit / Issue reports - How to write them

Purpose of Visit or Significance of Issue

- ☀ **Aa** - Make sure that whatever the topic, you have *identified* and stated **two** aspects of Biology. For example, if visiting a brewery then these might be 'Malting' & 'Fermentation'. If you are looking at Cloning, they might be 'How Cloning is carried out' and the 'Medical benefits' of this. ***If the two aspects are not stated then the mark is zero!***

Have you *described both* of them thoroughly and are they both relevant to the topic in question? ***Two marks for this or only one if either one is poor or both are mediocre ie. not much detail, not clear or not relevant.***

- ☀ **Ab** - Have you considered social, ethical, economic or environmental issues associated with these two aspects? ***You must discuss at least two of these to get the two marks! One mark if only one is described in any detail.*** Also, watch out for one of these already being one of the two aspects eg. if one aspect is deforestation, then you cannot have credit for environmental issues because you would expect that to be there anyway.

Biological Principles

- ☀ Has **one** aspect of biology been selected, then *explained* in more detail and you have made it obvious to the reader? If it is not, then the examiner will have to choose one and mark it on the script so that it is obvious.

- ☀ **Ba** - Have you gone into the actual **Biology** associated with this aspect in some detail? Surprising as it may seem, this was one of the worst aspects done overall in the pilot and this is Biology AS!! Again, if you are visiting a brewery, then for 'Fermentation', you might describe glycolysis in reasonable detail and perhaps look at different strains of yeast, use of finings, amount of alcohol produced and so on. If considering Captive Breeding in zoos, then it might be a mention of stud books and then go into the genetics behind preventing inbreeding and show how double recessive combinations might arise.

Notice that to get the full 4 marks for this there must be a 'clear discussion' that shows 'full understanding'. Only 1 or 2 marks if it is descriptive and 3 if it is a brief discussion or if it is not very clear.

If you use the word 'I' or 'we' in this part then it will be assumed that this is original thought and personal opinion ie. this is more likely to be some sort of discussion rather than a descriptive account. In fact, the old fashioned 'compare and contrast' approach to some of the material would do very well here because it would come over as more original. Make sure that the 'discussion' is yours and not already in the source material ie. your own ideas.

- ☀ **Bb** - This bit is a little ambiguous since it asks for 'future developments' or 'uses'. So here you could look solely at what the future might hold, have a detailed look at the actual methods employed either now or in the future or a combination. Whatever is decided, it must be made obvious and notice that the wording is talking about 'discussion of possible implications'. ***A simple description or reference to either future developments or uses (methods) will only get one mark. The next three marks will have to be on future developments ie. 2 marks for speculation, 3 marks for speculation that obviously uses source material and 4 for a full discussion.***

As for Ba, the use of 'I' or 'we' is more likely to indicate a discussion. Also, the speculation must be yours, not already in the source material.

- ☀ **Bc** - You must make sure that there is a 'clear evaluation of the relative validity of the information or arguments obtained from three or more sources', not just a passing reference. Imagine if you have been to a zoo that gives out leaflets showing how good it is at captive breeding with data on numbers of rare species born in captivity. You could either believe it to be true or could check it out by comparing with other zoos. This is not difficult using 'Google' let alone conversations, 'phone calls or that well crafted questionnaire that you have already written for the visit.. ***Again, a simple reference (but at least 3 sources, not including reference to a SNAB book) only gets one mark. A hint of questioning of the 3 sources gets 2 marks, some research into these three gets three marks and a full investigation gets the 4 marks.***

Again, use personal opinions or the use of 'I' or 'we' to indicate an original piece of research – make sure that it's obvious.

Communication

- ☀ **Ca** - Is the target audience identified clearly and is the report matched up to this? A really detailed complicated write up for 'GCSE students' will not be enough and neither will a simplistic one for 'Scientific American'. ***If the audience is not stated then the mark is zero!***

Have you used sub-headings and appropriate images to make it interesting and actually a 'good read'? ***One mark for a reasonable report matched to audience and 2 for one that is well presented and obviously aimed at the audience stated.***

- ☀ Did you include a decent bibliography of books or website and refer to things in the text? ***One mark if there is a bibliography but 2 two if at least one of these sources is acknowledged in the text.***

- ☀ Don't worry too much about the word count – notice the syllabus mentions both 1500 and 2000 words!!

Remember

This is ***NOT*** a descriptive essay!! Examiners are looking for ideas and opinions. We want to see that you can question things that you have read or have seen. Good candidates will argue, try to be critical or speculative and will dig deeper.