Assessment 2 Extended Research Project

IQM3002 Research Project and Skills Enhancement

Sample 2026 · Candidate coursework brief

Requirement	Details
Task	Individual secondary-research project using the same question as A1 and A3.
Length	2,500–3,000 words, excluding the reference list and supplementary process records.
Marks and credits	150 raw marks; 15 credits. AO2 Reading 60; AO4 Writing 90.
Conditions	Open-resource coursework with supervised milestones and authenticated drafts. Level 2 AI Planning.
Dates and submission route	The centre will enter the issue date, deadline and route on the cover sheet.

Your research question

To what extent does social media use affect subjective well-being in young adults?

Develop the work begun in your annotated bibliography into a sustained academic argument. Use the same research question throughout A1, A2 and A3. Your thesis should answer the question and remain consistent with the evidence you discuss.

Your task

Use secondary research to analyse the question, compare academic evidence and reach a justified conclusion. You are not required to collect original data, conduct surveys, interview participants or change your own social-media use. You may retain suitable sources from A1 and add other relevant academic sources. No additional fixed source count is imposed for A2.

Select and verify sources independently. Judge their authorship, research design, evidence, relevance, date and limitations. Academic articles, books or chapters, research reports and credible specialist institutional sources can be appropriate. Do not infer reliability from a domain suffix or page count alone. Any supplementary non-academic material must have a clear, limited purpose and must not replace the academic evidence base.

Build a coherent project

Introduction: define the scope and relevant terms, provide context, and state a clear thesis. Explain briefly how you selected and bounded your secondary evidence.

Main discussion: organise sections around themes and arguments. Compare and synthesise sources within those themes, analyse the quality and limits of the evidence, and explain how it supports or challenges your thesis. Avoid a sequence of unrelated source summaries.

Conclusion: answer the research question, draw together your main reasoning, recognise limitations and give appropriate implications or directions for further research. Do not introduce new evidence at this point.

Academic writing and references

Use clear topic sentences, developed paragraphs, appropriate academic vocabulary and your own authorial voice. Attribute quotations, paraphrases, findings and ideas accurately. Provide a complete reference list using a consistent recognised style; Harvard is recommended. Check spelling, punctuation and the consistency of your argument before submission.

Keep your research process: retain plans, source records, drafts, feedback and milestone evidence. These records support supervision and authentication; they do not carry a separate mark.

How your work is marked

Criterion	Marks	What the assessor considers
AO2 Reading	60	Understanding of sources, thematic synthesis, critical engagement with arguments, evidence and methods, and recognition of limitations.
AO4 Writing	90	Sustained thesis, coherent structure, developed paragraphs, academic register, author voice, accurate integration and referencing.

Permitted AI and materials

You may use student-selected academic sources, drafts, planning records and source records through supervised milestones. A source/citation record is required. Level 2 AI Planning permits brainstorming, outlining, question development, research orientation and limited summaries of sources already identified by you. You must independently select, read, understand and verify sources, and produce your own analysis, interpretation, evaluation, conclusions and recommendations. Verify outputs and record or disclose permitted use as required.

Submit and check

Submit the completed cover sheet, final 2,500–3,000-word project, reference list, source record and planning/milestone evidence. Use DOCX or PDF unless the centre specifies another accessible format. Include your candidate number and IQM3002_A2_2026S in the filename. Retain all drafts and research records.

Check that the thesis answers the question, all citations have matching references, word count is accurate, and all files open correctly. Seek any access arrangements through the centre’s approved process before assessment.