Human fieldwork revision for Paper 3

Title: Does **environmental quality** vary across different land uses in **regenerated areas** of **Salford Quays**?

- **Problem**: Salford Quays was docks for the Manchester Ship Canal which allowed imports and exports from factories. However, boats gradually got too big for the canal, and the dock was no longer used. As a result, Salford Quays was a **brownfield area** that needed **regeneration**.
- **Solution**: The area was regenerated. For example, the Dock Office was turned into a pub, homes were built. The Lowry (art, gallery and museum); Media City TV studios.
- **Justification**: This is a **suitable place to study** as it has recently undergone massive regeneration. Salford Quays has many visitors and workers and is close to Manchester City Centre so we can give people questionaries and assess the environmental quality.

Possible exam-style question: Why is your chosen place a good place to study?

*Salford Quays is a suitable location for a study because it features a **variety of land uses**, allowing us to assess whether all of them have contributed to improving the environment or just some. The area has undergone regeneration since its days as a dock in the 1980s, which gives us the **opportunity to evaluate whether regeneration consistently leads to environmental improvement**. The presence of different types of environments, such as open water and pedestrianised zones, also supports our study by enabling us to examine whether improvements have occurred across all areas.*

Sampling: We chose the stratified sampling method. This is where we **choose areas based on a specific group**. This means I will deliberately take data from different land uses –e.g. Media City, residential and shopping areas.

Methodology for Environmental Quality: We conducted an **environmental survey** and took photos of each site. Then we gave each site a score of 1-5 (5 is the best). We looked at **noise, litter, greening, street furniture, graffiti, and traffic**. We used a **bi-polar score** so we can make judgements about many factors. We chose those sites because we wanted to ensure we surveyed a range of different land uses. We chose those factors because they **did not need any special equipment and can be judged within a few minutes**. We ensured that the **scores were accurate by asking several people** and giving **clear descriptions** for each number used.

Problems with this method: It **relies on outsider impression**, and we might not notice everything. Counting litter or graffiti would be more objective and less influenced by our impression.

Methodology for the Questionnaire: A questionnaire gives a direct idea of how people view the environmental quality. **Local people will have a better idea** of what it's usually like e.g. traffic might not normally be this bad. We asked at least 10 people so that it gives us an accurate sample within the time available and allows us to **plot located radar graphs to show the spatial difference.** We also asked people from a range of sites (houses, commercial and industrial) because we may find differences in environmental quality that affect their opinion.

Secondary data that we used: Compare house prices online to see if the regeneration has improved the area. Looking at older photographs from the area for a visual **comparison**.

Possible exam-style question: Assess the effectiveness of your data collection method(s). [6 marks]

- **Identify**: One method chosen was ...
- **Describe**: To collect the data we ...
- **Assess**: This was/was not effective because...

Data presentation: We used a **located radar graph**. Why:

- Easy comparison between multiple factors.
- Quick assessments of strengths, weaknesses, and patterns.
- Visualise data in a multidimensional space.

Possible exam-style question: Justify your choice of data presentation. [4 marks]

I presented my environmental quality as a located radar graph. This allows different parts of the environmental quality to be shown so we can see more detailed patterns. Locating them on the map allows the spatial pattern to standout i.e. where is similar or different. We could then compare this to our secondary research of house prices or our photographs to see if there is a pattern in land use to environmental quality.

Possible exam-style question: To what extent did the data collected for one of your enquiries allow you to reach valid conclusions? [9 marks]

- Start with a brief introduction summarising your question and the conclusion you reached.
- Say how your data collection methods enabled you to get the results you needed to answer your original question – questionnaires and environmental study.
- Mention any problems with the data collection methods used, or reasons why the data was unreliable.
- Talk about whether errors in the methods used affected the accuracy of the results.
- A conclusion that summarises how valid you think the conclusions of your enquiry were.

*In our human geography enquiry, we investigated whether environmental quality varies across different land uses in regenerated areas of Salford Quays. Our conclusion was that **regeneration has mostly improved the environment, but not equally** in all areas.*

We used two main data collection methods: an environmental quality survey and a questionnaire. The environmental survey allowed us to record objective data by rating different factors such as noise, litter, traffic, and green space at various sites. This gave us a clear way to compare regenerated and less developed areas. The questionnaire helped us understand public opinions about the changes in the area and how people felt about the environment.

*However, there were some **problems** with our methods. The **environmental quality survey was partly subjective**, as different people might rate the same location differently. We also only collected data from a **small number of sites** and **at one time of day**, which may not represent the whole area accurately. Similarly, the questionnaire results may not have been fully reliable because we only asked a small sample of people, some of whom may not live or work in the area.*

These issues could have affected the accuracy of our results, particularly if our sample wasn't fully representative or if bias was present in our scoring. Despite this, the combination of methods gave us both qualitative and quantitative data, allowing us to draw a balanced conclusion.

Overall, I think our enquiry led to mostly valid conclusions, as our data did support the idea that regeneration had improved the environment in several ways. However, due to the limited scale and some reliability issues, there is a limit to how confidently we can apply our findings to the entire area.

Possible problems you can talk about that may affect the validity of your results:

- Only on one day
- Small sample of people
- Photos are of only one or two time periods
- People refused to answer
- Not enough of the area covered

Summary:

Question:	Does environmental quality vary across different land uses in regenerated areas of Salford Quays?
Justification for area chosen:	It has recently undergone massive regeneration. It has many visitors and workers, so we can give people questionaries and assess the environmental quality. Also, it is a public area, so we don't need permission.
Sampling chosen:	Stratified sampling. This is where we choose areas based on a specific group and deliberately take data from different land uses –e.g. Media City, residential and shopping areas.
Methodology for Environmental Quality:	Environmental survey and took photos of each site, then gave each site a score of 1-5 (5 is the best). We looked at noise, litter, greening, street furniture, graffiti, and traffic. We chose those factors because they did not need any special equipment and can be judged within a few minutes. We ensured that the scores were accurate by asking several people and giving clear descriptions for each number used.
Methodology for the Questionnaire:	Gives a direct idea of how people view the environmental quality. Local people will have a better idea of what it's usually like e.g. traffic might not normally be this bad. We asked at least 10 people so that it gives us an accurate sample within the time available and allows us to plot located radar graphs to show the spatial difference. We also asked people from a range of sites.
Data presentation method chosen:	Located radar graph because it allows different parts of the environmental quality to be shown and we can see more detailed patterns. Locating them on the map allows the spatial pattern to standout i.e. where is similar or different.
Secondary data used:	• House prices online are a strong indicator of how desirable an area has become over time. Rising property prices in Salford Quays suggested that regeneration had made the area more attractive, supporting our primary data findings about improved environmental quality. • Looking at older photographs from the area – allows us to visually compare how the area has changed over time and better understand the scale of environmental improvements, such as the development of green spaces.