

# How to develop research skills

The following step-by-step guide is a suggestion of how to start research and develop it in preparation for answering the research question in Paper 1. It is very important to keep an organised record of resources used in order to make the most of them. A research portfolio will allow for this and therefore encourage independent learning; this will result in a more personalised and meaningful learning experience.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE	DONE	CHECKED
<p><b>CONSIDER THE FOUR RESEARCH SUBJECTS GIVEN IN THE SPECIFICATION</b></p> <p>Which research subject(s) interest(s) you most?</p> <p>Do some background reading in both your first language and the target language to find out what you would be most interested in learning about.</p>		
<p><b>CONSIDER THE THREE ASPECTS OF EACH RESEARCH SUBJECT</b></p> <p>Do these help you refine your choice of research subject?</p> <p>Remember you will have to research all three aspects of your chosen research subject. Either confirm your choice of research subject or choose another one based on the aspects.</p>		
<p><b>WRITE SOME BASIC QUESTIONS ON ALL THREE ASPECTS OF YOUR CHOSEN RESEARCH SUBJECT</b></p> <p>What do you want to find out?</p> <p>Use some of these question words/phrases to get you started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what, when, who, define, distinguish, identify, list, name, recall, reorganise</li> <li>• show, state, write, which, indicate, tell how</li> <li>• compare, conclude, contrast, demonstrate, predict, which, distinguish, estimate</li> <li>• explain, rephrase, inform, give an example of, hypothesise, illustrate, relate, tell in your own words</li> <li>• how would, demonstrate, choose, indicate</li> </ul>		
<p><b>CHOOSE YOUR SOURCES AND START GATHERING INFORMATION IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE</b></p> <p>Where can you find enough information to help you find out more?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Once you have identified the sources you are going to use, photocopy or print out the texts so you can read them, highlight key points and annotate the new vocabulary.</li> <li>2 Identify quotes, facts and statistics that you could use later.</li> <li>3 Don't forget to reference the sources so you can locate them again if you need to.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>IDENTIFY KEY POINTS AND ORGANISE THEM</b></p> <p>What have you learned about your chosen research subject and its three aspects?</p> <p>Create a mind map of the key points and information you have gathered.</p>		