

ASSESSMENT REPORT

AGR315117 AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Researching primary information and using data

Both sections of the folio must contain reference to primary information and primary sources and not be based solely upon secondary textbook-type sources. Primary resources include expert interviews, observations or surveys of current practice, measurements or sampling data, impact data or customer advice. Referencing conventions must be followed to enhance academic integrity when using personal communications, such as interviews, conversations, or photographic images and sketches.

Candidates who were thorough in this detail acknowledged their primary information source or other advisers, knew how to label a graph or table or an image in-text, give population sample size and provided evidence of how they analysed their tables or graphs in their findings, whether their own or sourced from elsewhere, and provide conclusions and recommendations for future development based upon their design cycle and prototyping or advice from advisers.

Systems-thinking, technological developments, or the current agricultural and horticultural industry developments of existing products, processes or reviews all require authentic research of both print and online information databases. Candidates who achieved excellent ratings used these database information services as well as the primary source information gained through expert interviews, personal observations or surveys.

In order to stay within word limits effectively, high performing students often presented their own research and industry evidence in the form of a table that they drew up themselves or a summary diagram or chart of their own analysis of the data, business or environmental decision making processes. An option is also to move it to appendices to keep the report within the 3000 word limit.

[UTAS Library Harvard Referencing](#) publications [on pages 14-16] detail guidance for identifying personal communications and labelling own images taken to support folio work with the following interpretation suggested for TASC candidates:

- In-text – Replace name by TASC candidate number (date)
- Bibliography – Replace name by TASC candidate number (date)
- *Title of image or pers.comm. in italics.* Format eg JPG or Email. Include time of day and month if email.

If you are unsure of how much information to add, the convention is to use [...] brackets, i.e. [add own notes inside square brackets].

A good standard of referencing for both a personal photographic image and a personal email communication could be:

- TASC ID (2019) Tractor modification JPG [image taken at Agfest display]
- TASC ID (2019) Pers. Comm. Email 3 October 2019 [Survey response]

Engineering design solution

Excellent achievements by candidates involved their demonstration of their understanding of **all** Elements of Criterion 6 and Criterion 8 whether using existing or emerging technologies. They:

- generated a design solution
- used technology skills, processes and systems-thinking
- applied some management skills, such as planning to the engineering challenge
- implemented risk assessment and mitigation strategies
- evaluated or justified why an engineering solution was needed; and
- suggested modifications and improvements to the engineered solution following a period of prototype testing and user feedback.

These project folios reflected:

- a design brief (problem/challenge, background, requirements and limitations)
- research (analysis/comparison, survey, feedback)
- concept sketches or perspective drawings, with notes or annotations
- descriptions of the tools, materials, techniques and experiments/building prototypes/testing in the production stages
- evaluation of outcomes (of requirements from initial design brief)
- **MAXIMUM** of 20 pages length.

Agribusiness case study

Excellent achievements by candidates involved their demonstration of their understanding of the factors that influence or affect the enterprise or business by collecting and evaluating the following data:

- the inputs into the production
- production processes and timelines
- risks involved with the production processes
- environmental analysis - considerations such as waste minimisation strategies, climatic influences
- outputs – both intended and unintended
- external e.g. government factors that influenced the operation of the small business project
- budgeting – planned and actual
- marketing of products
- success of the business and aspects for future improvement
- references
- a wordcount of the report (2000 - 3000 words).

That is, specifically an understanding of Criterion 5 (all Elements), Criterion 2 (Elements 3,4, 5 and 7) and Criterion 9 (Elements 7 8 and 9).