

**STAGE I – Investigative question**

(1a) Describe a topic that interests you. You may choose anything controversial.

(1b) Narrow the topic down to a few questions, keeping in mind the distinction between:

- questions that seek to define the terminology;
- questions about events in space and time (who, when, where, how);
- questions about causality;
- questions about morality (what is good/bad, right/wrong); and
- questions about what should be done at the political, legal or personal level.

Write down an example for each type of question within the topic you have selected.

(1c) Single out one question—this will be your investigative question—making sure that:

- it is about an event in space and time (see *www.rootclaim.com* for examples);
- the answer to the question is not obvious, but something people disagree about;
- the question must have a correct answer, but you do not currently know it; and
- you have good reasons to believe you'll discover the correct answer by doing research and collecting pertinent evidence.

(1d) Explain why the question must have a correct answer, but you do not know it.

(1e) Explain why the question interests you and why others should also be interested.

(1f) Before doing research, what evidence do you hope to find?

(1g) Before doing research, what is your guess about the correct answer to the question?