

Common Q&A for IWA Focus Selection

‘Using three criteria, evaluate the sustainability of a recent technological development in your area of study’

1. How relevant should the technological development be to my major?

The purpose of this assignment is for you to explore your future area of study and see how it's applied in the real world. However, many technological developments can be applied across multiple fields. As long as you can justify your choice in your focus proposal, it should be acceptable.

2. What can be seen as a recent technological development?

We are looking at a technology that has been developed or significantly advanced since the year 2000. This includes:

- New technologies introduced after 2000
- Existing technologies that have seen substantial improvements since 2000

For example: The practical implementation of machine learning algorithms in various fields since the 2010s. While the theoretical foundations of machine learning have existed for decades, recent advancements in computing power and data availability have made it possible to apply these mathematical models to solve real-world problems in areas such as image recognition, natural language processing, and predictive analytics.

3. There are many technological topics covered by the textbook. Can I use one of them as my focus?

You can choose a topic mentioned in the textbook as a starting point. However, it is crucial to understand that you **cannot use any ideas or sources covered by the textbook** for fairness reasons. Many sources have been adapted for the textbook's purpose, so your analysis must go beyond what's presented there.

4. Can I use offshore wind technology as my focus?

You can choose offshore wind technology if you can justify your reason for your choice. However, it's important to note that offshore wind technology is used in the sample essay.

Therefore, you **cannot use the ideas or the sources used by the sample essay**. Your analysis must be original and draw from different sources.

5. How specific or general should my focus be?

Your chosen technology should allow you to provide in-depth analysis and have a specific evaluation. However, focusing on one aspect of a technological development that's too specific may require subject-specific knowledge you might not have. Aim for a balance.

6. There are some technological development ideas provided by my reading list sources. Do I have to choose from these ideas?

You are more than welcome to choose a technological development covered by your reading list sources. However, you are also allowed to choose a technological development you are interested in outside the recommendations.