

Exercise walk-through

1.1

Search Literacy

GAC Computing

You must be able to

- turn a broad question into useful keywords
- use quotation marks, minus, and `site:` search operators
- evaluate authority, currency, and bias before citing

1

The method

Method — Make the search answerable

Question: Do electric cars produce less carbon dioxide overall?

Use the keywords **lifecycle emissions electric vehicle comparison**. Add `site:gov` to look for a government report. A named author, a stated method, and a publication date make the source easier to defend.

Do not copy a claim before recording its citation. A news story about research is usually a **secondary source** 二手资料; the original study is a **primary source** 一手资料.

2

Practice

Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

State what `site:gov` does in a search.

Solution 2.1

Method: Make the search answerable — p.4

Worked steps

- It limits results to government domains. **B1**

Practice 2.2 ■ 1 mark

Name one factor, other than accuracy, to check before citing a web source.

Solution 2.2

Method: Make the search answerable — p.4

Worked steps

- Authority, currency, bias, author, method, or date. **B1**

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Explain why a whole question written as a sentence may be a weaker search than a small group of keywords.

Solution 2.3

Method: Make the search answerable — p.4

Worked steps

- A sentence includes many unnecessary words. **B1**
- Focused keywords are more likely to match studies or reports on the exact idea. **A1**

3

Exam-style

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 4 marks

A student is researching whether social media affects sleep. Write a more focused search query and explain why it is stronger.

Solution 3.1

Worked steps

- For example: `social media sleep adolescents study site:edu.` **B1**
- It uses the main concepts rather than a long question. **A1**
- `site:edu` can help locate research from an identifiable education or research institution. **A1**
- The student must still evaluate the source before using it. **B1**

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 4 marks

The student finds an undated blog post that sells a sleep-tracking app. Explain why it may be a weak source for the research task.

Solution 3.2

Method: Make the search answerable — p.4

Worked steps

- The post is undated, so its currency cannot be checked. **B1**
- It sells an app, so it may have commercial bias. **A1**
- The author and evidence may not be clear. **A1**
- A named study or official report with a stated method would be stronger. **B1**