Scottish Science Baccalaureate and Scottish Languages Baccalaureate

Interdisciplinary Project Unit

Assessment and Quality Assurance

The Interdisciplinary Project will be carried out by learners in three stages:

- negotiating a project proposal and plan
- carrying out the plan and evaluating the Interdisciplinary Project
- reviewing and evaluating the process of own learning

Assessment

The Interdisciplinary Project will be internally assessed against clear and rigorous criteria. The assessment will be carried out:

- by centre staff, or
- in collaboration with partner organisations, or
- by a combination of both

Projects will involve learners using knowledge and skills from various subject areas. A team approach to assessment is therefore likely. It is unlikely that a single member of staff will have sole responsibility for all aspects of the assessment process.

Assessment partnerships may include staff from other schools, colleges, and higher education institutions. All partnerships should be supported by written partnership agreements.

It is important that the credibility of the Interdisciplinary Project is maintained for all stakeholders — including learners, parents, higher education institutions, and employers. Assessment of Projects will be supported in centres by their internal verification systems. SQA will apply external quality assurance processes.

Internal Verification

Internal verification systems will typically have three stages:

Stage 1	Pre-delivery	(checking availability of required resources, agreeing interpretation of standards, planning assessment and internal verification opportunities)
Stage 2	During delivery	(sampling assessment decisions, ensuring consistency, supporting assessors)
Stage 3	Post-delivery	(review and evaluation)

Centres should maintain records of each stage of their internal verification process.

Partners involved in the assessment of Projects should be fully supported by the centre's internal verification system.

External Quality Assurance

The internal assessment of the Project will be supported by SQA through a two-stage external quality assurance process.

Stage 1

The Interdisciplinary Project Unit is not on SQA's list of auto-approved qualifications because of the likely need for access to specialised resources and/or expertise

Centres must submit a Form IP1 prior to delivering the Unit for the first time. This form provides SQA with a self-evaluation by a centre of its ability to support delivery, assessment, and internal verification of the Interdisciplinary Project Unit.

Stage 2

Subject-specific Quality Forums will sample and collectively verify centres' internal assessment decisions.

Quality Forums will bring together staff, from groups of centres, who have an overview of the assessment and internal verification processes. They will question, discuss and, if necessary, explain centres' internal grading decisions. The Forums will be chaired by trained SQA Interdisciplinary Project External Verifiers who will direct and guide discussions, and ratify final decisions.

Quality Forums will help to quickly establish a common interpretation of national Interdisciplinary Project Unit standards.

Queries relating to assessment and quality assurance should be directed to:
assessment.standards@sqa.org.uk