



The Scottish Baccalaureate in Expressive Arts

EV Commentary — Exemplar 3

‘The Restorative Nature of Architecture’

Grade: A

Introduction

The evidence for the five stages of the project and assessor report was submitted on the SQA templates. The assessor has supplemented the candidate's evidence with comments which provide full insight into how decisions regarding internal verification and assessment were reached.

The school's representative at the Quality Forum made it clear that the internal verification was robust and that regular weekly meetings took place. The candidate's assessor was the Principal Teacher of Art, and the Internal Verifier was the Principal Teacher of Science (who was experienced in mentoring and assessing candidates in the Science Interdisciplinary Project). This collegiate approach supported both candidate and assessor. Internal verification also took place within the local authority with a similar collegiate approach further enhancing the quality assurance.

Proposal

This is a very exciting and well-considered proposal with aims and objectives that are clearly stated and realistic, achievable and yet challenging. This is an excellent example of an interdisciplinary project as it clearly demonstrates that the candidate has thought through the different aspects associated with architecture and its impact on lifestyle, health and well-being.

The unusual title reflects architectural sustainability and the candidate clearly has great enthusiasm for this subject.

The candidate identified three of the five broad contexts that were to be covered in the project, and provided a brief yet detailed explanation as to their relevance.

She clearly identifies a wide range of learning environments, which would include Maggie's Centres across the UK, the school's Art & Design Department, architecture firms across Dundee, University of Dundee Psychology Department, and local care centres.

The candidate gives a very detailed explanation as to how her Art and Design skills will be applied and developed, reflecting on her subject knowledge and application. She emphasises with enthusiasm the areas in which she would be required to gain and develop new skills, how she intends to build upon these, and how she will creatively organise and present the results. Potential problems are identified, and a robust attitude is applied to overcome them. The candidate makes clear reference to how each skill relates to the project being undertaken.

The proposal comfortably meets all the A and C grade criteria.

Plan

The project plan is detailed throughout and the timescales have been extensively considered. By using a Gantt chart the candidate is able to clearly evidence her timescales, milestones and pressure points, and the objectives were clear and in line with the candidate's proposal.

The candidate used a diary and sketchbook throughout the project to carefully plan the various stages, using this to adapt and develop her ideas.

The candidate has considered and opted for a very wide variety of appropriate research methods, which include gathering and analysing information from questionnaires and face-to-face interviews as well as accessing material from online resources and books. By using these methods she was able to refine her research and project findings.

The candidate identified dependencies and anticipated possible and probable factors that could impact the project. These are detailed and carefully considered. The contingency plan allowed her to create a robust framework to proceed in a clear and well-defined direction. By gathering and analysing data from a selection of sources she was able to study the site in preparation of the development drawings and model construction.

She clearly understands that the project would rely on her ability to work independently and use her experience in the development process to create ideas both two- and three-dimensionally. This continued creative development is demonstrated throughout the project and was supported by the assessor's comments.

Presentation of project findings/product

The presentation consisted of a PowerPoint presentation to three different audiences. The information was developed and adjusted at each stage. This was a very ambitious approach and was highly successful; the candidate adjusted her findings as a consequence of each presentation.

Her first two presentations used sketchbooks and display boards, which demonstrated her strong Art and Design research and development skills. The final three-dimensional models were included at this stage giving her audience a tactile experience.

The final presentation was delivered using PowerPoint. This slide show contained photographic evidence, which explained every stage, demonstrating her editing skills. It is essential to emphasise her use of presentation boards — these supported her PowerPoint slide show. During the question and answer session the candidate was able to evaluate, reflect and adjust not only the presentation, but also the project itself.

The assessor's feedback clearly recognises the value and success of each presentation. This candidate readily meets the criteria for both C and A grade criteria.

Evaluation of project

The evaluation is excellent. The candidate presents a very detailed evaluation of her project with an honest and insightful process of reflection, during every aspect of her project. This thoughtful and reflective evaluation process has been used by the candidate throughout and is certainly one of the main reasons for the success of the project.

The candidate makes it clear that she has reflected in detail on all aspects of the projects: creative planning, time management, data collection, communication and presentation, etc.

This candidate readily meets the criteria for both C and A grade passes criteria.

Self-evaluation

The self-evaluation process is the most challenging aspect of the Interdisciplinary Project, and was approached by the candidate with a mature and insightful attitude. This is showcased further through her skills analysis and creative development.

The candidate clearly details her skills development against the list of generic and cognitive skills. For example, the candidate clearly articulates what she has learned as a result of her first presentation and developing the second and third based on her findings and responses of others. Her open and honest manner when interpreting the success of the project and her interpersonal skills development reflects her ambition to do well.

Overview

This was an exceptionally interesting and very ambitious project, which was carried out with great enthusiasm and applied knowledge. It is evident that the candidate has benefited greatly from this experience by using both creative and logical approaches, and sharpening her presentation and appraisal skills. In conclusion the candidate had total autonomy over this project and has clearly met all the A criteria with the five stages and is awarded an A Grade pass.