



## **The Scottish Baccalaureate in Social Sciences**

### **Interdisciplinary Project- Exemplar 5**

**“Systematic aid from UK to Africa and why it is not working”**

**Grade: A**

# Social Sciences: Interdisciplinary Project

## Proposal

<b>Candidate name</b>									
<b>SCN</b>									
<b>Centre name</b>									
<b>Assessor name</b>									
<b>Project title</b>	Systematic aid from UK to Africa and why it is not working								

### Project outline

1. My project will be about systematic aid to Africa from UK and I will try to explain why it is not working. The aims of the project are to raise awareness why systematic aid is not enough to encourage development in Africa, to improve my knowledge on aid in overall, to understand why it is not working in Africa, but it has worked in other countries. The first part of the presentation and some of the first blogs will be based on general statistics on the development in Africa. Then I will talk and write about bilateral aid between UK and Africa. I am planning to make a comparison why it has worked in other parts of the world, researching the Marshall plan, and try to establish reasons why aid has helped Europe developed after World War II, while it cannot improve the conditions in Africa. Moreover, I am planning to research on people's opinions what do they think about systematic aid, should the UK government continue to support Africa by lending cheap loans or it should seek for different approaches.
2. My project is part of a group presentation. I am working on Aid in Africa with a classmate of mine. My role in the project is to research and present the information on systematic aid, while the other member of the group is working on non-governmental help. Each one of us will post separate posts, only the blog will be a common one. We will also make the presentation for Model United Nations at school together, but again each one of us we be talking about her own topic, mine will be systematic aid from Britain to Africa.
3. The project will be presented in two ways. First of all, as this is a controversial issue, because according to some foreign aid is the only way to get Africa out of the vicious cycle, the project will rise different opinions. Having previously established Model United Nations group at my school, I thought that it will be a good idea to present my final piece of work at one of the official meetings, as it will then go to a topic for a discussion. Secondly, there will be a wider presentation for the wider community – everyone who is interested in Aid to Africa anywhere in the world will be able to access the blog. We are planning to create a blog and each week upload a blog which can then be read by different users. That will provide us with the opportunity to create presentation for different types of audience.
4. By the end of this project I hope to have expanded my knowledge on aid in

Africa, the culture of Africa and the economic benefits of having Africa as a market of exports for UK. I believe I would improve my research methods, learn how to manage my time wisely and improve my presentation skills.

### Reasons for choosing this project

1. The main reason for choosing this project is related to my future career. At university I am hoping to do economics, including a module on economic development. I hope after that I will have the necessary knowledge to follow a career path as an economist in an international financial organisation such as the IMF or World Bank.
2. As I am coming from a country with lower standard of living than UK, Bulgaira, I have always been interested in developing countries. Also, I believe that emerging markets are a key solution to dealing with the current financial crisis, as they could provide a larger market for exports for the developed countries, as well as larger variety of imports and cheaper labour. That implies that developed countries, such as UK, have their own reasons of transferring aid to Africa. However, the question why systematic aid has not worked is still unanswered for me. I hope that my studying that further I will expand my knowledge and come with variety of possible answers.

### The broad contexts this project will cover are

- Citizenship                       Enterprise                       Employability
- Economic development                       Sustainable development

1.Economic development – The project that I will be working on relates to economic development, as it will focus on reasons of the poor economic development of Africa and why simply aid is not enough to the conditions of life.

2.Sustainable development – One of the main reasons for aid being sent to Africa is to provide sustainable development the countries in the continent. Also, if Africa has higher economic development, that will allow resources to be more equally distributed, which will improve the conditions of sustainable development in other parts of the world as well. Also, sustainable development is crucial to Africa in particular due to its current geopolitical tensions and pressure from climate change and climate in overall. That makes it extremely important to explore the whole nature in order to achieve growth combined with sustainability.

3.Citizenship – As we are all global citizens, we should develop an understanding of the issues effecting the world today. Charity is something that is part of the daiy life and the issues around it are therefore very important to all citizens of the world.

### Learning environments I will access are

Various learning environments will be accessed:

- “Dead Aid *Why Aid Makes Things Worse and How There is Another Way for Africa*” – Dambisa Moyo. I will use this book for basic information and for examples of Aid which I can later expand on;
- IMF and World Bank websites for current statistics of aid in Africa

- United Nations' website
- Materials that are provided by Model United Nations. These materials will be used to attract audience for the two presentations
- The Economist (reading articles)
- University of Saint Andrews – School of Economics and Finance, Module on Growth and Development; I will contact the university by emails. I will also contact University of Edinburgh for the same reasons
- Africa University – contact the university by email, hoping to understand what economists there think about aid to Africa
- ODI SHAPING THE POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT – to collect various of opinions of people about aid
- Comic Relief – information from the website, email them for further details and specific opinions of people and their views on aid.

### **How I will use my knowledge of social sciences**

- Geography:
  1. Background information on Africa
  2. Basic knowledge of reasons for the Africa's poor development from Higher Development and Health Unit
  3. Why aid is not working in Africa – due to its geographical environment and topography
- Economics:
  1. Economic Development
  2. History of British aid to Africa
  3. Economic reasons why it has not worked
  4. Africa as a market for future exports

### **The skills I will develop and/or improve in the course of this project are:**

*(carry out a short analysis of your current strengths and weaknesses in the skills areas below and how you think your project will allow you to develop and/or improve these skills)*

- *application of subject knowledge and understanding*
  - I have never done a project on combining two of my subjects and applying the concepts to real-life examples
- *research skills – analysis and evaluation*
- *interpersonal skills – negotiation and collaboration*
  - Emailing universities and organisations for current information and greater research will allow me to learn how to ask for information from people at higher positions in an organisation.
  - As it is a group project I will improve my skills of working with others.
- *planning: time, resource and information management*
  - Having set the deadlines on my own, it will teach me how to set tasks for each week that I am able to complete. Having to write one blog at least per week, will make me work on the project regularly and not leaving it for the last minute. Having a strict outline and a timetable will be a necessity. Checking the blog for new participants will teach me how to be fully engaged in my work.
- *independent learning – autonomy and challenge in own learning*
  - Carrying out an independent project will teach me how to find the necessary information on my own, find the useful sources on my own and pick up the

valuable information. It will also allow me to focus on the points that interest me the most, in particular the why Aid has worked in other countries, but not in Africa.

- *problem solving – critical thinking: logical and creative approaches*
  - In the process of gathering information, for sure there will be some contradictions between sources, also there might be no information for specific topics, so I will have to find news for expressing my points
- *presentation skills*
  - having two presentations: one in front of an audience at school and one for wider audience (a blog) will confirm to me how different information is suitable for different stereotypes of people, so I will learn how to present in front of various types of audience;
- *self evaluation – recognition of own skills development and future areas for development*
  - I believe I have never self-evaluated myself, but by doing the project that it will be the most valuable part, as I will learn how to look critically to my own work, judge it fairly and seek how to improve it.

**Assessor feedback to candidate**

A very clear project aim. Clear and different roles in the project, working with a colleague; some interesting and different resources to access; a very good start.

<b>Proposal approved</b>		<b>Further work required</b>	
<b>Candidate signature</b>			<b>Date</b>
<b>Assessor signature</b>			<b>Date</b>

# Social Sciences: Interdisciplinary Project

## Plan

<b>Candidate name</b>									
<b>SCN</b>									
<b>Centre name</b>									
<b>Assessor name</b>									
<b>Project title</b>	Systematic aid from UK to Africa and why it is not working								
<p><b>Is this a group project?</b>    yes    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    no    <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If a group project my individual role or responsibilities will be:</b></p> <p>My individual topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Looking mainly of the systematic aid to Africa, focusing on the economic aspects;</li><li>- Explaining why Africa needs aid;</li><li>- Comparing Africa to other countries that have received aid;</li><li>- Researching the British Aid to Africa;</li><li>- Researching reasons why systematic aid does not work;</li></ul> <p>Other responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Creating the blog;</li><li>- Maintaining the blog;</li><li>- Contacting the sources related to my individual topics;</li><li>- Creating the visual materials for MUN debate (Power Points)</li><li>- Creating the visual materials for the presentation in front of S2 (Power Point)</li><li>- Presenting my individual topics to the MUN meeting in June</li><li>- Keeping track of the discussions during the regular group meetings;</li></ul>									
<p><b>Timescales</b> (<i>this should be a detailed timeline and any separate spreadsheets or charts should be included as evidence</i>)</p> <p>Attached separately;</p>									
<p><b>Planning</b> (<i>how you are going to meet the agreed objectives of your project</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First of all, in order to meet the agreed objectives I will try to follow the timeline that have been created. By adding a column indicating the completion, it will be easier not to lose track of my progress. Also, in addition to all extra work that has to be done by organising the presentation and the debate for the Model United Nations group, at least on blog has to be written every week. Also, the topic of the next blog will be discussed on the group meetings, making sure that</li></ul>									

all required information is available and various sources have been accessed. In order to ensure that, contacting universities and organisation has to be made at least a week prior to the deadline scheduled on my timeline for this certain topic. That allows waiting time for the response. one blog should be written, not always posted every week as some go better in groups. This is what I have assigned myself to do.

- In order to run the group meetings smoothly, any arising issues should be written down which will then be used in the evaluation process.
- Arised issues are to be discussed on the meetings, such as univerisities or companies not replying or not managing to keep on track with the deadlines
- A date for the oral presentation to be scheduled a month in advance.

### **Resources** (eg people, materials, places)

Various learning environments will be accessed:

- “Dead Aid *Why Aid Makes Things Worse and How There is Another Way for Africa*” – Dambisa Moyo. I will use this book for basic information and for examples of Aid which I can later expand on;
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- ODI SHAPING THE POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT – to collect various of opinions of people about aid
- Comic Relief – information from the website, email them for further details and specific opinions of people and their views on aid.
- Oxford University

### **Research methods** (eg contacting companies, surveys, focus groups, experimentation)

- Contacting universities – Oxford, Saint Andrews, Africa University
- Contacting organisations – Model United Nations
- Forums and websites publishing opinions – ODI SHAPING THE POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT, Comic Relief
- Books – “Dead Aid”
- Current news – “The Economist”
- Making a survey – What do people in general think about aid to Africa

### **Presentation**

- **Who do I think will benefit from listening/reading/looking at my presentation of my project findings/product?**

First of all, from listening to my presentation, mainly members of MUN will benefit from it. I hope that after the presentation that will give a good start of a debate: „

Should we send aid to Africa". We will also present it to S2 classes as they are studying Geography at the moment and ask them in general what they think about aid. However, from the blog, wider community will have an access to it. Everyone looking for information on "Aid in Africa" will have a chance to find it online.

- **What methods are appropriate to my audience(s)** (*eg demonstration, presentation software, websites, oral, report, piece of theatre, dvd, wiki/blog or any combination*)

The oral presentation will include also a Powerpoint presentation to highlight some of the main points and to attract the audience's attention with photos illustrating mainly the poverty in the continent. The first Powerpoint presentation will be for S2 which just general information and some interesting cases and ideas how maybe they can help the continent. For MUN it will be much more advanced, but again it will include a Powerpoint presentation with photos and a video. That will be appropriate as my classmates and other children from my school will have a chance to both listen and visualize the presentation. Also as the figures and statistics can be too much sometimes, photos will balance them.

For the general public a blog is a way to reach a bigger community. There it will be mainly written, but to make it more interactive some videos from the internet and some photos will be included. To emphasise on the main points, facts or statistics different font will be used.

**Dependencies** (*what is required for your project to go ahead ie reliance on other people or resources, steps in plan that must be completed before starting the next step*)

Reliance:

1. Universities and organisations to reply to our questions
2. People to fill out our survey (different age groups)
3. Other members of the group project for regular meetings
4. Members of MUN to listen to our final presentation
5. Extra sources from MUN group
6. People reading and commenting on our blog

Steps to be completed before starting the next step:

1. Register MUN members
2. Register the school as a member of MUN (after consulting with the school)
3. Create the blog
4. Contact some of the universities and organisations
5. Research carefully the websites of the organisations to avoid asking for information that is already given
6. Create the timescales
7. Do some advertising of the blog before starting writing blogs using the social network media

**Contingencies**

<b>Any anticipated problems</b>	<b>My plans for overcoming the anticipated problems.</b>
1. Universities not answering to emails	Phone them first. If again no information is being sent, find another similar type of source.
2. Group members writing about too similar topics on the blog	Arrange regular meetings with the other person involved in the project to discuss the main idea of the publication for next week
3. Not clear which member of the group is writing each blog as only one username can be registered	Sign each blog at the end with my initials
4. Organisations not replying to emails	Phone them first. If again no information is being sent, find another similar type of source.
5. Not enough people looking at blog	Advertise it through social network media; Advertise it at school through leaflets, for instance;
6. No people coming to meetings of MUN in June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Change the date of the meetings, make a table to check attendance, withdraw people who are not coming regularly</li> <li>b. Better advertising; Advertise it through social network media;</li> <li>c. Advertise it at school by giving leaflets, put it on the assembly notices as an event</li> </ul>
7. Not being able to write one blog each week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Keep track of the ones I have done; Write more than one when there I have more time (preferably in advance).</li> <li>b. Come up with some interactive blogs that require less time to be published, but are more interesting for the public</li> </ul>
8. The date for the final presentation in front of members of MUN is in June, which is after the deadline for submitting the project, so it will be hard to be evaluated	Evaluate the rest of the project as this is just a small part of it

**Method for recording my skills development and future areas for improvement**

<b>Assessor feedback to candidate</b>			
A robust plan, I especially like the clear contingencies you have considered for your project.			
<b>Plan approved</b>		<b>Further work required</b>	
<b>Candidate signature</b>			<b>Date</b>
<b>Assessor signature</b>			<b>Date</b>

Date:	Task:
Nov 1st	Register Group for Model United Nations
Nov 10th	Final Decision on the topic (group meeting)
Nov 2nd - March	Regular meeting discussing the progress of the project
Nov 15th	First Draft of the project proposal
Nov 20th	Group meeting on discussing the project proposals
Nov 25th	Second Draft of the project proposal
Dec 10th	Project Plan to be completed + meeting with my assessor
Dec 10th	Creation of the blog
Dec 10th- January 8th	Collection of data from written sources
Jan 20th	First Post being written - welcome
Jan 27th	Second post - reasons for the need of aid 1
Jan 20th	Email universities for information
Feb 3rd	Third post - reasons for the need of aid 2
Feb 10th	Fourth Post being written - reasons for the need of aid 2
Feb 10th- Feb 17th	Organise the member of MUN Group
Feb 10th - Feb 17th	3 blogs being written
Feb 10th - Feb 17th	Email universities for more detailed information
Feb 23rd	Model United Nations First Official Meeting
March 2nd	Model United Nations Conference (Edinburgh)
March 3rd	Eighth blog written
March 3rd	Write speech
March 10th	Forming groups
March 10th	Prepare Questions for the debate
March 15th	Final Practice of the speeches
March 16th	Presentation of Aid for Africa - Model United Nations Meeting
March 17th	Ninth post
March 22nd	Tenth post
March 23rd	Evaluation

## **Social Sciences: Interdisciplinary Project**

## Presentation of Project Findings/Product

<b>Candidate name</b>	
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<b>Centre name</b>	
<b>Assessor name</b>	
<b>Project title</b>	Systematic aid from UK to Africa and why it is not working

**How I presented my project findings** *(describe in detail how you presented your project findings and explain the choices you have made with regard to your presentation method(s) and audience(s))*

1. The main part of my project was presented in the form of blog. Posts were written on weekly basis, some posted together in a group as they were on related topics. The idea of the blog came as it is a way to present small pieces of data regularly rather than delivering a huge presentation at once. Also, as the internet media nowadays plays such a significant role in the daily life of the people, it was a good idea to reach a wider community of people. The blog has a title "AidforAfrica". It includes mainly written posts and information is gathered from several sources, including the book "Dead Aid", various newspaper articles, organisation "Comic Relief", and statistics from the websites of World Bank and IMF. Members of these organisations and universities were contacted with some specific questions. Data on the general opinion of people towards aid was gathered by me personally as with the other team member we created a survey and gave it to people at school. The results were also presented in the form of blog. In the blog there were some more interactive posts, which included chosen videos, summarising the main points already made. Also some graphical representation of data was presented. That was done in order to attract people who prefer different presentation of data rather than just written form. I thought that may be the case as the general public to whom the blog was advertised were young people, so it is likely that they will remember more if it is more interactive. There were also some terrifying statistics included in certain posts. In order to emphasize on their importance, they were written in different font. The aim of that was to get the reader's attention.
2. A short presentation was delivered at S2 classes at school. S2 was chosen as a year group as currently they were being introduced to the geographical aspects of development. My part of the PowerPoint presentation was created using different idea. The first slides were mainly pictures in order to get their attention. The pictures were various. For instance there was a slide including pictures of desert, war, the HIV virus in order to make the children to guess some of the reasons why Africa is not as developed as the other continents. The next slides included some statistics. Then I talked briefly of

how much Britain is donating to Africa, and then I focussed on why simply giving aid to Africa is not working.  
Creating a PowerPoint was also a way to advertise our blog.

3. The third way I am planning to present my project is in front of the group at school of Model United Nations group of the school, which establishment was part of the process of the project, but the group will continue after the end of the project. First of all I will present my findings on bilateral aid between UK and Africa and try to explain why according to me it is not working. The other group member will present her findings on non-governmental help and why it is more effective. A PowerPoint will be included in order to highlight the main aspects. The idea is that after our presentations a debate will follow where the other members of the group will also be involved. We have came up with the questions for the debate and the organisation of the teams will also be established. In order to advertise, the other group member has created a Facebook page where important information will be included.

#### **Assessor feedback to candidate**

An excellent presentation – well prepared and thought through; interesting; self-critical and I like how you were able to reflect about the process and your learning.

<b>Candidate signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Assessor signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	

## Social Sciences: Interdisciplinary Project

### Evaluation of project

<b>Candidate name</b>									
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<b>Assessor name</b>									
<b>Project title</b>	Systematic aid from UK to Africa and why it is not working								
<b>How successful has my project been overall?</b> In overall, I believe that my project was successful. This was due to the fact that I managed to expand my knowledge on aid to Africa. That would be helpful for me as next year I will be studying Economics, so I would be able to apply the knowledge when it comes to the development units. It was also successful as I managed to meet the aims that I set for myself. By gathering all the information, I managed to increase my knowledge. For instance, I learnt what Marshall plan is, I understood some methods of how WTO is providing freer trade to Africa such as "Aid for trade". As one of the aims, set in my proposal was to increase my knowledge on this topic, I believe that was fully met. The other aim that was set there was to raise awareness about aid to Africa. That was met as there were some visitors of the blog, who even wrote comments. Presenting a short review of what we have found in front of Form 2 allowed me to focus on some of the main aspects of my research and present in front of audience. The planned speech in front of Model United Nations group at school will allow me to present in front of an audience that is engaged in global issues. Also, the fact that a debate will follow based on what I have said and what the other group member has discussed will make the audience listen to my findings and concentrate on them, so that they can argue one or another side in the debate on aid for the continent.									
<b>How effective were my communication methods throughout the project?</b> I believe that was the hardest part of my project for me. On 16 <sup>th</sup> of January I emailed the economics department of University of St. Andrews asking them for information on information about British Aid to Africa and actual statistics on this topic. The same email was sent to the section editors of the "Economist". On the same date I emailed. On the same date I also emailed the University of South Africa asking for their perspective on foreign aid. On 1 <sup>st</sup> of February I sent an email to Comic Relief asking them for reasons why Africa needs aid. On 27 <sup>th</sup> of February I emailed them again. On that date I also emailed a member of the WTO and person responsible for contacting people in relation to aid to Africa. Unfortunately, I did not receive any replies. Thus I decided to call WTO and ask for some documents and the economic department of the University of St. Andrews. Later, after contacting Comic Relief I was also told where to find the needed information on their website. After the phone call I just received links to their website, related to the actual information, but I did not receive any specific extra data and statistics.									

Not getting immediate answers slowed the process of writing posts in the blog. However, I tried to research deeply in the internet and some economic newspapers on current issues, such as the economist. However, the fact that now I had some actual links to look at made the writing faster. It also turned out to be that I can find much of this information published on the internet in articles of daily magazines, such as the Guardian. The statistics there seemed reasonable, reliable and not biased.

However, I thought I did a better job on working in a team. I was the one monitoring the process of the blog, and I was the one reminding the other member for the upcoming deadlines. Not that we met all of them which were planned, but we made the decisions of how to reschedule it together which improved my communication skills and taught me how to work in a team.

**Is there any aspect of my project that could be taken further? What might my next steps be?**

The project can be easily expanded in terms of the blog. More posts can be written especially on the case of trade. Also, as the blog mainly focuses that bilateral aid is mainly ineffective, a further step can be that the different perspective is also looked at: it was helpful in some countries. Some specific examples can be included. I was thinking that I would like to focus on a country where governmental aid has worked properly and on one where it has not.

The Model United Nations group can be taken further as other debates on other global issues can be discussed.

<b>Candidate signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	
<b>Assessor signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	

## Social Sciences: Interdisciplinary Project

### Self evaluation of generic and cognitive skills development

<b>Candidate name</b>									
<b>SCN</b>									
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<b>Assessor name</b>									
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*In evaluating your skills consider the skills analysis which you carried out at the Proposal stage and how you said you would develop and improve these skills. Now refer to your reflective diary/log/blog and feedback you have received and evaluate how you have developed and/or improved these skills through the work on your Interdisciplinary Project.*

#### **Application of subject knowledge and understanding**

I had a basic knowledge on development of Africa before starting the project. This was due to the International Unit of Higher Economics and the Health and Development Unit of Higher Geography. That knowledge helped me to establish the main topics I would be looking at: reasons for aid and basic ideas on trade. That was then extended to two other topics: comparison between aid to Africa and to Europe and why aid is not working. I feel as I expanded hugely on this general knowledge and this was presented in my blog and will be presented in my talk for Model United Nations for the scheduled debate in the summer term as now I have access to information from large variety of sources. The fact that it will be presented in two different formats will make me remember much more of the information.

#### **Research skills – analysis and evaluation**

At first I planned to research on what I can easily find on the Internet. Also I looked over my notes from my International Unit in Higher Economics. I thought that was a good start as it provided me with the main ideas that later were taken further. It also gave me some of the main organisations that could give me reliable information such as WTO. Then I read the book "Dead Aid" as it covered all aspects of my project. While reading I was underlying the relevant information, which turned out to be useful as later when writing the blogs I already knew where the useful information is. However, there were some chapters that I found completely irrelevant. I can also recognise another downside of this – I have completely trusted the statistics the book gives. Even though sources of them are included, it would have been better if I have researched further to prove that they are true. After I have focussed on my topics, I decided to contact some universities and organisations for specific information. That did not turn out to be very successful as I did not get any replies back. However, I can recognise what I did

well during contacting them and what I did not. I thought that it was a good idea to ask universities from both UK and Africa about general statistics of how aid has helped Africa, and in particular statistics on British aid. I thought that was a good idea, as the British universities can be slightly biased on the effectiveness of the policy. Also, when I did not get reply first, I emailed them again and after that phoned some of them, I believe was good as it showed my determination. I also contacted some different ones as Comic Relief, hoping that I will receive an answer from them. I received some useful links of where to look for information on the Comic Relief Website and WTO, especially. Also, I managed to find on the internet information from sources such as Oxford University on my topic and I thought it is good idea to include even though I have not contacted them personally. Most of the raw data was gathered before starting writing the blogs. However, at the process of writing I realised that the blogs would be better if some more data is added or it is backed up by another source, so I used the internet to find more information on the topic. While implementing my project, I decided that the research can be taken further my including a survey among some of the students at school. With the other group member we created a survey. Four questions were included, three of which were on my part of the research. I thought that was a good idea as it will show how aware the people are.

#### **Interpersonal skills – negotiate and collaborate**

First of all, completing the project taught me that if you are working in a group, it is not only important that you meet the deadlines, but also make the other group members do so. Also, at first it was hard to understand who is writing on what topic for the posts in the blog. That is why, a group meetings were set for every week. As I was the one publishing the posts on the blog, I had to make sure that roughly each week at least one is uploaded and to ask the other group member to send me one if she has not done so yet.

By emailing universities, not getting replies, I also learnt a lot. First of all, sometimes it may take more than one email to get reply. Also I may not also get the depth of the reply I was hoping for. I recognised my mistake there. The emails I had written were too broad. I think it would have been better if they were more specific as it would take the people less time to reply to my question, so it would be more likely that I would get a reply. Also, I learnt that the best way is to call the universities. Unfortunately, I could not contact the Universities in South Africa, but I received information from St. Andrews only after calling them, where on their website I can find some of the required resources.

I also listened to teachers in order to know which Form class it is best to present in front of and asked him to distribute the questionnaire to all members of Form 2 class and make sure that they will fill it. That shows that during the project, I could not figure out the right audience, but asking for help gave a good solution.

#### **Planning – time, resource and information management**

Before starting the project, I thought that my biggest strength would be time management, however, I know I can recognise it as one of my weakest characteristics. First of all, I was advised to finish my project before Christmas as that would leave me plenty of time to focus on the coming exams and deadlines for dissertations. However, due to different factors, mainly myself not taking this piece of advice seriously, I left it for later in the year. Factors, such as the slow process of establishing the Model United Nations group at school and not getting the replies

quickly made the situation even worse.

Later targets were also set quite unrealistically. At first I set myself to write one blog per week. That did not turn out to be possible, because at first I was waiting for replies from organisations and universities. Also, another issue was raised during the implementation of the project. I thought that some of the blogs were better if they were published one after another as they were on the same topic. By that, if you were interested in a certain topic, you could easily find all my data quickly at one place instead of looking at the whole blog. That also altered the plan for one post to be posted each week.

However, for myself I kept the target of writing one post per, and after that I just published them together. The progress of the project was discussed regularly. Each week each one of us was saying what she did the previous week and what she is planning to do this week. If we had some big issues, we were writing them down in order both of us to incorporate and deal with them as a team. We both recognised that if we had more time, we could have improved each individual blog and write more of them. Also the timetable that I created included a column “Done”, so I had to tick what I have done and what is left to do. That helped me be aware of how much I have completed each week and I thought that this was a really good practice.

### **Independent learning – autonomy and challenge in own learning**

*(Think about how you used your skills to make things happen, took the initiative to establish links with other learning environments/opportunities and looked for challenges rather than taking the easy option.)*

I think I developed some skills during the process, that actually helped me complete my study.

- First of all, having three types of presentation I believe proves that I did not just decide to narrow down the amount of work, but rather increased at as the Form 2 presentation was not planned in the beginning.
- Also, the fact that I choose to present in public during the summer term and in front of Form 2 for me was the hardest option, but also I believe something that I would receive the biggest enjoyment of after completing it.
- I also managed to solve most of the problems on my own, without asking my assessor. Even though, if I had ask him, he might have come up with better solutions, I managed to find some solutions on my own. I believe that solving the problems is something I will have to do later.
- Moreover, writing to universities and especially organisations, allowed me to communicate with people even though only on the phone who otherwise I would never have the opportunity to do so at this stage of my education.
- I used my leadership skills to organise the other group member.
- I used my computing skills to create a blog as I researched different softwares, but then decided to choose an online program.
- I used my knowledge of previous of experience of how to create a timetable that can actually help me keep track of my progress – by including the column “Done”.

### **Problem solving – creative approaches; critical thinking; logical approaches**

*(Think about your problem solving skills. How did you generate and explore ideas, use logical and creative approaches, analyse source materials in order to support findings, reflect on problems and possible contributory factors and think critically about possible actions/changes?)*

The first main problem that I had to overcome was not getting replies from universities and organisations. It was my decision to write to them again, but I did not get any feedback again. After talking with my assessor and his advice to phone I managed to get some useful links.

Another more technological problem that I had to overcome was the creation of the blog. As I was responsible for creating the blog, but I had never done before, I had to look up at the internet how to do one. The first one I created did not allow be to use it for free for more than a week, so I had to create a new one, which took more and effort. It was something that managed to sort out on my own, which improved my independent thinking and made me find a solution quickly.

Another problem that occurred during the maintaining of the blog was that in the program which I had chosen, it was possible to have only one author. As this is a group projects and two of us were involved, it was necessary to distinguish between what each one of us has written. A good decision was to start writing the initials after finishing each blog in order to be available for the public to see who wrote what.

Also as I was responsible for the maintenance of the blog, and no comments were published I came to the conclusion that the blog needed some popularity. I used social media to advertise it. Also after the presentation in front of Form 2, a link of the blog was shown in order to make them visit it.

Another problem that occurred was that we had scheduled to attend a meeting of Model United Nations in Edinburgh. However, due to the fact that we did not manage to register the group quickly and find people at school who would like to this, the date was missed.

### **Presentation skills**

*(Think about how you presented your findings. Evaluate your presentation method(s), choice of audience(s), layout, structure, degree of formality and choice of content. Did your presentation include information/ideas/reflections with supporting detail in a logical order and reach a reasoned conclusion?)*

I think the presentation skills that I used were at a good standard. To start with, the fact that different audiences were used gave me the opportunity to learn how to present the same information but in different format in order to be suitable for different ages and people with different amount of previous knowledge on the topic. For instance the PowerPoint that I created for my part of the presentation in front of Form 2 included many pictures in order to make it more understandable and suitable for their age. As English is my second language, writing the blog regularly helped me improve my knowledge on terms related to aid, such as bilateral, for instance. The biggest challenge for me has always been talk in public. Presenting our presentation in front of Form 2 was also a nice way for me to practise for the presentation in front of the Model United Nations, as it is easier to present in front of younger people. I believe that the choice of audience was appropriate as it covered

large variety: from young students, to public audience and people involved in the global issues.

The layout of the Powerpoints according to my self-evaluation was at a high standard. The slides did not include much text, only the important information was presented and the rest was explained.

The layout of the blog was also at a good standard. Different fonts for instance were used to grab the reader's attention at the interesting facts. Also, looking at the front page of the blog, it looks quite professional. However, there was a slight issue with including pictures and text on the same post. Unfortunately, that was something that the template of the blog did not let me change. If I had to do it again, I would definitely use different one.

### **Self evaluation – recognition of own skills development and future areas for development**

*(Think about how you have developed throughout your project. How did you deal with feedback, praise, setbacks and criticism and their impact on your own development of knowledge, skills and understanding? To what extent did you ask for feedback, learn from experiences and how will you use these to inform future progress?)*

The most valuable skill for me that I have developed while completing the project was independent research and study. This is something that I will have to do regularly at university, so I think that throughout the project I developed a lot. I started looking for information only at reliable sources and started questioning what is written as well. The fact that I was talking with my assessor and other teachers on how to go about finding information from other sources than the internet developed my skills of how to ask for advice and help. I also had to accept criticism of not meeting some of the deadlines that I had set myself and the fact that I did not manage to complete the project before Christmas. If I have to do it again, I would do it as early as possible as completing later my other assignments had to be left behind. I would have done a better and more detailed timetable in order to keep myself on track. Also, I went to ask for feedback only when I had some problems which I recognise as a mistake. I think it was a better idea to go regularly to my assessor and ask him of his opinion on each post. That would have improved the later posts and make the whole project more valuable. However, for me the greatest achievement was that I had to face that I have to talk in public. Being shy, this was the biggest challenge for me. However, I found out that the only way to overcome it, was to be proactive.

*This section is not mandatory. It has been included to allow you the opportunity to undertake an overall reflection of your project.*

**Reflection on my experiences throughout this project** *(eg things you feel you have achieved, things you have done that you feel particularly proud of, anything you would do differently were you to do something similar in future)*

**Skills that I have used in this project that I would like to develop further** *(eg using skills in even more challenging situations, more working on your own, more team working)*

## Social Sciences: Interdisciplinary Project

### Assessor Report

Candidate name \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate number \_\_\_\_\_

Centre \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Project proposal</b>	<b>Tick as appropriate</b>
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
The title and aims of the project.	√
Clear aims and reasoned arguments to support the relevance and practicability of the project.	√
Identification of opportunities for:	
• own skills development	√
• collaborative working	√
• accessing less familiar learning environments	√
• application of subject knowledge in a broad context	√
• use of knowledge and skills across different disciplines	√
• making connections between subject knowledge and the wider world	√
Evidence of the ability to communicate clearly and concisely in advocating the proposal.	√
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Well conceived proposal which sets creative and challenging goals which are at the same time realistic, achievable and practicable.	√
Robust and carefully argued justification of the proposal.	√
Substantial links and understanding of possible connections across disciplines contributing to the project.	√
<b>Comments</b>	
The candidate was very passionate about the topic for her project. She spent a lot of time developing her proposal and re-drafted it several times after feedback, which she asked for.	

<b>Project plan</b>	<b>Tick as appropriate</b>
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
Development of clear project objectives in line with the project proposal.	√
Relevant and detailed planning strands to enable the project to be implemented, monitored, presented and evaluated.	√
Realistic timescales and achievable milestones for each stage of the project.	√
Clear identification of resources needed, research methodologies to be used, opportunities for support and feedback.	√
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Careful selection and effective use of research/investigation techniques.	√
Anticipation of probable and possible factors which may impact on the project.	√
Clear identification of dependencies or reliance on the success of other strands of work and of necessary adjustments to the plan.	√
Outline the process for achieving own identified development needs.	√
<b>Comments</b>	
The candidate developed a clear project plan and worked effectively to deliver it, whilst remaining flexible and willing to adapt to circumstances.	

<b>Presentation of project findings/product</b>	<b>Tick as appropriate</b>
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
Evidence of effective and critical use of — resources, research methodologies, information and time management, prioritisation, problem solving approach to reach objectives, feedback, collaborative approaches, self monitoring.	√
Application of specialist and interdisciplinary subject knowledge to establish meaningful connections within the broad context.	√
Clear presentation of main findings/outcomes.	√
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Critical thinking, analysis and reflection used at key stages in the project to construct rigorous arguments, draw convincing, well supported conclusions, identify and resolve issues.	√
Skilful and creative use of resources, including people, information and learning context to progress the project.	√
Accurate and deepening of understanding through application of subject knowledge in the chosen context, with meaningful connections well established.	√
<b>Comments</b>	

<b>Evaluation of project</b>	<b>Tick as appropriate</b>
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
A critical and justified evaluation of all stages of the project process — planning, implementation and findings/outcomes in terms of strengths, weaknesses and learning points.	√
Effective use of chosen communication method(s).	√
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Incisive, well balanced evaluation of the project outcome against project aims, supported convincingly by well selected evidence.	√
Careful choice and skilful use of communication and presentation methods(s).	√
<b>Comments</b>	
The candidate has shown that she is able to assess if something is not working e.g. emails to organisations asking for information and to then adapt her approach and contact them by telephone or in person.	

<b>Self evaluation of generic/cognitive skills development</b>	<b>Tick as appropriate</b>
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
A critical evaluation of own skills development against the list of specified generic/cognitive skills.	√
A reasoned evaluation of own strengths and key goals for development in the specified list of generic/cognitive skills, which takes account of feedback sought and evidenced from others throughout the project.	√
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Insightful, balanced and well-structured self evaluation of own development.	√
Assertive and justified use of feedback from others in evaluation and identification of development areas.	√
<b>Comments</b>	
The candidate has critically evaluated how her skills have developed and has been able to look honestly at how she has changed as a result of the project.	

The overall grade will be:

- A indicative of a highly competent performance which meets the additional Grade A criteria and consistently demonstrated a high degree of autonomy, initiative and effective information management across the five pieces
- B indicative of a competent Grade C performance across the five pieces, but with some aspects of work meeting the criteria for highly competent performance (as outlined by the Grade A criteria)
- C indicative of a competent performance across the five pieces, with all aspects of the work meeting the criteria identified for Grade C performance

<b>Overall Grade Awarded</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Additional Comments/Overview</b> <p>The candidate has completed an interesting project in a language which is not her native one; this involved the use of new technologies – a blog and Facebook – where she changed her approach to the project part way through.; and also a presentation to an audience of S2 pupil; she has worked well and closely with another pupil, splitting the work effectively between them.</p> <p>She has learnt about herself as she has been going through the project and she has developed her skills.</p> <p>She has shown throughout her project a high degree of independence and the ability to work by herself without assistance; she has also worked very well with her co-worker.</p> <p>She has persevered when meeting challenges during the process and she has convinced others to take part in the project.</p> <p>I have been most impressed by her ability to produce the various pieces of evidence at the right time and to a very high standard. All of them have been clearly written, insightful and show a high degree of self-awareness and the ability to review her work and learn from it.</p> <p>She has been the driving force behind setting up a Model UN at school and on the basis of her work for this project she has been invited to speak at a Model UN in India!</p>	

**Assessor signature**

**Date**

**Internal verifier signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_