



**National Qualifications 2016
Internal Assessment Report
Scottish Baccalaureate in
Expressive Arts**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Qualifications units

Scottish Baccalaureate in Expressive Arts: Interdisciplinary Project

General comments

This is the fourth year of delivery of the Interdisciplinary Project Unit in Expressive Arts with all seven presenting centres being selected for external verification.

Of the 11 projects verified, external verifiers agreed with the grading decisions of nine projects (82%).

Six centres were accurate for all of their candidates, demonstrating a clear understanding of the national standards. In one centre the assessment decisions relating to two candidates were deemed to have been lenient and a lower grade was recommended.

Unit specification, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

With many centres presenting in Expressive Arts also presenting in some of the other curricular areas (Science, Languages and Social Sciences) there is a good knowledge of the unit specification and exemplar material. Evidence from quality forum events highlight how well departments are working together in some centres to support the Interdisciplinary Project, sharing experience, assessment and verification.

Some centres were not represented at the quality forum event, but it was apparent that those attending had a clear understanding of the specifications for the unit. They made valuable contributions to discussions and appreciated the opportunity to interact with external verifiers and representatives from other centres to further develop their knowledge. As the quality forum event also provides centre representatives an opportunity to explain assessment procedures within their centre and discuss these with the external verifier, centres should encourage assessors to attend.

Evidence requirements

With cross-curricular working comes a clear understanding of the evidence requirements and this is also the case in centres presenting only in Expressive Arts. In most centres, assessor reports have been completed fully with enlightening comments giving insight into the assessor's decisions regarding awarding of criteria — these comments are invaluable for both internal and external verification.

Administration of assessments

All centres used the Expressive Arts template from the SQA website. These were mostly completed well by candidates, though some candidates disadvantaged themselves by not referring to the italicised prompts in each section. These prompts help candidates remain focused on what information is required in each section and allow them to fully access the grading criteria.

In general, internal verification has been carried out well, though some centres could be taking advantage of opportunities for a strong internal verification process which presents itself in working with other departments within the centre or with other centres within the local authority.

At the quality forum event, centre representatives gave full accounts of their internal verification processes. This information is vital to help judge the robustness of the assessment process.

Areas of good practice

External verifiers have commented on the interesting and exciting variety of projects which candidates have produced covering themes such as graphic novels, interior design, and an investigation into the link between classical music and productivity. Assessors and mentors are commended for supporting their candidates through these.

Many centres are encouraging candidates, where appropriate, to present to lower year groups. This is an excellent way of showing developing confidence and skills, as well as enthusing future Interdisciplinary Project candidates.

Some centres have been commended on the assessor feedback to candidates. This feedback, given in the proposal, plan and presentation of findings, is providing positive, motivational comment on candidate's work and methodologies. It is clear from evaluations however that not all candidates take this feedback on board.

Specific areas for improvement

Progress logs continue to be submitted along with the mandatory evidence. These are not required for verification purposes and centres have been advised of this where they have been submitted.

Where centres are presenting in more than one curricular area, there is an ideal opportunity for reciprocal internal verification across the areas, ensuring that verification is carried out in full. This will also help build expertise within centres and improve the sustainability of the qualification for the centre.

Some centres should be encouraging candidates to look outside the centre for external contacts as this heightens the interdisciplinary nature of the work. This also allows candidates to develop a different skill set in communicating in a less familiar environment.