



**National Qualifications 2017  
Internal Assessment Report  
Scottish Baccalaureate in  
Expressive Arts**

# National Qualifications Units

Scottish Baccalaureate in Expressive Arts: Interdisciplinary Project

## General comments

This year all nine presenting centres were selected for external verification.

Eleven candidates were presented for the Expressive Arts Interdisciplinary Project. External verifiers agreed with 67% of the assessment decisions and centres were commended for their accuracy.

Issues were identified in three centres where assessment decisions were deemed to have been lenient, resulting in four projects being recommended for a lower grade.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Attendees at the quality forum events demonstrated a high level of knowledge of the unit specifications and the instruments of assessment. Exemplar materials were widely used by both candidates and assessors to judge the evidence requirements and inform the grading process. Some new presenting centres showed a sound understanding of the assessment process.

Almost all centres provided assessor reports with full comments to support grading decisions. The insight gained from these comments is invaluable in confirming grades.

## Evidence requirements

Most centres have a clear understanding of the evidence requirements as many have presented for several years in different curricular areas. There are some instances of all Interdisciplinary Projects in a centre being supported by a cross-curricular group. This model has developed a high level of expertise in these centres. This is an excellent way to build capacity in a centre for continued support of the Interdisciplinary Project.

There is an ongoing issue with progress logs and interim reviews, which continue to be submitted along with the mandatory evidence. These are for the candidate to use in evaluations should they wish, and are not considered at verification.

## Administration of assessments

All centres used the Expressive Arts templates from SQA's website. Assessors should be aware that an updated template is available for session 2017–18. The 2016 template is acceptable in 2017–18, however, after this session only the new template will be accepted.

In some centres, internal verification is similar to joint assessment. Assessors and internal verifiers are too familiar with the project and the way it has been conducted. This has resulted in errors in assessment decisions, as weaknesses in meeting grading criteria are being overlooked. Some centres have been advised that they need to strengthen their internal verification procedures.

### **Areas of good practice**

Several centres were commended for encouraging candidates to use subheadings within the Evaluation which helped them remain focused on the requirements for this piece of evidence.

Some assessors are recording less formal feedback to candidates in the Proposal and Plan, reflecting conversations that have taken place — this is often more supportive and challenging. This also helps support the verification process, providing insight into the candidate's development.

External verifiers commented on the relevant and interesting societal issues covered by the projects.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

The ethos of the Interdisciplinary Project is to provide opportunities for candidates to develop their skills. A number of projects have been focused within the centre, limiting candidates access to some of the grading criteria. Candidates should be encouraged to take full advantage of opportunities elsewhere.

When a centre has several candidates, they should be encouraged to be more individual in their approach. Similarities between projects from the same centre can lead to concerns over candidate autonomy.

Assessors should be mindful that assessment is across the whole project. Grading decisions should not be influenced by a strong presentation; weaknesses in other areas should not be overlooked. There must be evidence of candidates meeting criteria within the submitted evidence, supported by the assessor comments. Internal verification, carried out by someone who is independent and distanced from the project, should ensure grading which reflects the evidence available.