



**National Qualifications 2017
Internal Assessment Report
Scottish Baccalaureate in Social
Science**

National Qualifications Units

Scottish Baccalaureate in Social Sciences: Interdisciplinary project

General comments

This is the fifth year of delivery of the Interdisciplinary Project in Social Sciences. All 10 presenting centres were selected for external verification.

Projects from 15 candidates were verified, with external verifiers agreeing with the grading decisions on 13 candidates (87%).

Two centres were deemed to have been lenient in their assessment decisions and their candidates were recommended for a lower grade.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Unit specifications are well understood by most centres. This was demonstrated by the informed discussions which took place at the quality forum event.

Assessor feedback to candidates showed a sound understanding of the instruments of assessment and often referenced the grading criteria. Assessor comments on grading decisions were very useful in the verification process.

The exemplar material available on SQA's website was accessed by both candidates and assessors, and centre representatives commended the availability and usefulness of this material. As the evidence required for the Interdisciplinary Project is the same across all four curricular areas, centres should be aware that they can direct candidates and assessors to any exemplar material.

Evidence requirements

Most centres have a clear understanding of the evidence required for the unit. Many assessors have been commended for the rich feedback they provide to their candidates and the insightful comments which help guide the verification process.

All centres submitted the necessary evidence and assessor report, however, some centres submitted progress logs and interim reviews along with the mandatory evidence. Centres were advised that progress logs and interim reviews are not required for verification.

Administration of assessments

All centres used Social Science 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.

Several centres presenting in Social Science also presented in other subject areas and have developed a team approach to assessment and verification.

Internal verification procedures were mostly robust, with a few centres being advised in their external verification report to improve their process.

Areas of good practice

Verifiers commended several centres for encouraging their candidates to explore an interesting and diverse range of project topics. Some candidates made good use of external agencies for data, information and support, allowing them to develop their generic skills. This is reflected in the evidence submitted.

Many centres are taking a cross-curricular approach to support candidates with their projects. This approach also supports assessors and develops expertise among staff to expand the Interdisciplinary Project within the centre.

This year candidates have used some innovative presentation methods such as websites and blogs.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres should encourage candidates to be more robust in initial research to ensure the viability of their chosen project. Many projects focused on current political issues, however there appeared to be little consideration of the best means to access information/data. If candidates struggle in the early stages to find relevant research, it can affect their motivation.

Where candidates use surveys to collect data, teachers or lecturers should encourage them to carefully select their sample, include their findings in their presentation, and reflect on the usefulness of their questions and results.