



Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024–25

Science

Verification group number: 458

General comments

Presentations for the Science Interdisciplinary Project continue to be the highest of the four curricular areas with many centres also presenting candidates in other curricular areas.

Course arrangements, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Information on the course arrangements, unit specifications and instruments of assessment is available on SQA's website, and it is recommended that assessors revisit them regularly.

Although most centres presenting in Science have done so now for several years, there are always centres presenting candidates for the first time and also new members of staff acting as assessors. All assessors of the qualification should familiarise themselves with the above documents to increase expertise and develop a clear understanding of the unit requirements.

Internal verification documents show evidence of exemplar material being used by both candidates and assessors.

Evidence requirements

Generally, all centres understand the evidence requirements. There were fewer instances this year of timelines and internal verification documents being omitted. This suggests that centres have used the checklist provided by SQA to ensure that all relevant documents are submitted for external verification. On the whole, assessor reports were fully completed with many high quality, insightful comments regarding the grading decisions.

Administration of assessments

Centres administer the assessments well with many having a cross-curricular support network across all four subject areas, which also contributes to a robust internal verification process. SQA templates were used by all candidates with the majority completed in detail.

Learning and teaching

Being a skills-based unit which the candidates carry out autonomously, there is little teaching involved, though many centres assist the candidates with initial skills recognition and analysis.

Overall assessment

The overall assessment of projects was mostly in line with national standards. Generally, assessor comments were good and, in many cases, helped explain grading decisions.

Verification

Many centres presenting in Science also presented in other subject areas. There is evidence from internal verification documents that many have developed a team approach to assessment and verification. This also means that there is a robust internal verification procedure in place contributing to a high degree of accuracy in grading.

In general internal verification documents submitted by centres are improving in quality, though a few centres were advised in their verification outcome report of a need to improve their internal verification process.

Areas of good practice reported during session 2024–25

The documentation on procedures surrounding internal verification of the Interdisciplinary Project continues to develop. Many centres provided clear and concise information relating to the numbers, timings, assessment and verification of the Interdisciplinary Project.

Many candidates were very innovative in their research and presenting methods, making full use of technology and social media.

Many candidates made good links with professionals and academics to source information for their project.

Specific areas for improvement reported during session 2024–25

Some candidates confused their input in the evaluation of their project and their self-evaluation. Holistic grading can sometimes reduce this confusion. However, a lack of input in one section can limit access to A grade criteria across both evaluations. Making use of the italicised prompts within each section of the template will help the candidate with relevant input for each section.

Some projects can end up as little more than a piece of research due to candidates giving up too easily in making contact with chosen resources.

In the self-evaluation, candidate reflection on surveys and other feedback could be improved.