



# **Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project**

## **Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024–25**

### **Social Science**

**Verification group number: 536**

## **General comments**

This year all centres presenting candidates for the Social Science Interdisciplinary Project also presented candidates in other curricular areas. Many of these centres have taken a collegial approach to supporting their candidates, with strong evidence of cross-curricular verification and assessor support.

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

The use of course arrangements, unit specifications and instruments of assessment continues to be promoted to centres through their verification outcome report.

From internal verification documents submitted, it is evident that centres are making good use of exemplar material. They are also using candidate projects within the centre from previous years to prompt discussions between candidates and assessors, and assessors and internal verifiers regarding specific grading requirements. This practice is commendable.

## **Evidence requirements**

All centres have a clear understanding of the evidence requirements but some need to ensure that candidates complete all sections of the templates fully. Some centres have inadvertently used an older version of the template which does not require the expansion of the broad contexts. The most up-to-date version should be accessed in the Assessment Support Pack on SQA's website. It requires candidates to discuss any broad contexts which are relevant to their project. As this is a C grade criteria, it must be completed for an award to be made.

A few centres continue to submit additional material with the mandatory evidence. Other than tables or spreadsheets containing timelines, no additions such as progress logs or reviews should be submitted as evidence. The candidate should include any relevant information from these at appropriate points within their five pieces of evidence.

## **Administration of assessments**

Centres have a sound understanding of the assessment procedure. SQA templates were used by all centres with the majority completed in detail.

All centres submitted a fully completed assessor report for each candidate with quality comments throughout.

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

## **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 carried out by assessors was mostly in line with national standards. Generally, assessor comments were good and, in some cases, helped explain grading decisions.

## **Verification**

The internal verification documents submitted by centres are improving in quality. It is evident that in many centres these are live documents being developed over the years. There continues to be a few centres not submitting the internal verification documents. As these are mandatory documents, if they are not submitted, results will be put on hold until they are submitted for external verification. 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**

Several candidates carried out very interesting and relevant projects, allowing them to develop their skills in many areas.

Some candidates made good use of the italicised prompts to create headings which helped them focus on the required input in each section.

All centres presenting candidates for the Social Science Interdisciplinary Project also presented in other curricular areas. Many formed a collegial group within the centre — this approach is commendable as it increases consistency of support, accuracy of grading and allows for a more robust internal verification.

## **Specific areas for improvement reported during session 2024–25**

Centres should ensure that candidates have fully completed all parts of the templates. Where sections are omitted there is often an impact on meeting grading criteria. A sound internal verification process should identify any omissions.

Several projects this year were very narrow in their scope, with the interdisciplinary aspect of the projects being reliant on English for writing up reports, Maths for analysing data and Computing for making a presentation. These do not contribute to a truly interdisciplinary project. Having a narrow scope also does not allow a candidate to fully access all grading criteria.

Many candidates give up too easily in reaching out to contacts and end up with little more than a piece of research. Again this limits access to all grading criteria as an Interdisciplinary Project needs to go much further than a research project.