Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2022–23

Expressive Arts

Verification group number: 535

General comments

The Expressive Arts Interdisciplinary Project has the smallest number of presentations across the Baccalaureate subject areas. Many centres presenting in this area also present in other subject areas. As in previous years, candidates' choice of topics was interesting and varied. Grading decisions were mostly accurate and in line with national standards.

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

Information on all of the above is available on the SQA website.

From the high level of accuracy in grading decisions, it is clear that centres have made use of the exemplar material available on the SQA website. There is also evidence of this within the internal verification documentation. While there is a limited number of Expressive Arts exemplars available, centres should be aware that the assessment of all subject areas is the same, therefore all exemplars will provide guidance on requirements and gradings.

It is recommended that assessors revisit the unit specifications and instruments of assessment annually.

Evidence requirements

With most centres presenting in Expressive Arts also presenting in other subject areas, centres have developed a sound understanding of the evidence required. The templates were well populated, and the assessor reports were generally well completed with insightful comments throughout.

Some centres did not submit the mandatory internal verification documentation — all these centres were accepted on receipt of the required documents.

Administration of assessments

The collegiate approach taken by several centres presenting in Expressive Arts has contributed to strong administration of assessments. With subject areas working together, centres have developed a coherent approach to the support of candidates, the assessment of candidate evidence and the internal verification of grading decisions.

Areas of good practice reported in 2022–23

- Expressive Arts candidates continue to show great creativity in their chosen presentation methods, challenging themselves in many ways.

- Some candidates produce very strong evaluations through which the external verification team get an insight into the candidates' enthusiasm and pride in their project.

- The quality of the internal verification documentation submitted by some centres is commendable. With time, this document should grow and give clear insight into the centre's internal verification procedures.

Specific areas for improvement reported in 2022–23

- In general, timelines could be more expansive. One advantage of a more detailed timeline is that it can also contribute to dependencies, which in many cases were rather weak.

- When candidates choose to change the focus of their project for whatever reason, consideration should be given to any resulting adjustments needed to contingencies, dependencies, audience, resources, etc. Any changes should be included as an appendix to the project plan.

- Care should be taken when allowing candidates to carry out a group project, as there must be sufficient scope to allow all candidates to work autonomously.

- Some centres submitted candidates' progress logs and interim reviews. These are not required and are not considered during external verification.