



National Qualifications 2022
Qualification Verification Summary Report
Scottish Baccalaureate in
Languages

Verification group number: 457

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Qualifications Units

During the 2021–22 session the following NQ Unit was verified:

Scottish Baccalaureate in Language: Interdisciplinary Project

General comments

This year 12 centres presented candidates for the Language Interdisciplinary Project and 11 of these were selected for external verification. A total of 29 projects were verified. The assessment decisions made by eight centres were verified as being in line with the national standard (73%) and these centres were commended for the accuracy of their judgements. The grading decisions made by three centres were not in line with national standards. The assessment decisions for three candidates from two centres were deemed to have been lenient, and lower grades were recommended. The decision made by one centre for one of their candidates was deemed to have been severe, and a higher grade was recommended for this candidate.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

With no external verification taking place for the past two years, for several centres this year would be the first external verification. As many centres are making assessment decisions in line with national standards there is obviously a sound understanding of the unit specifications and the instruments of assessment. It is also apparent that exemplification materials have been well used.

Evidence requirements

The evidence required for external verification is the candidate's Proposal, Plan (including evidence of timelines), Presentation of project findings, Evaluation of project and Self-evaluation along with the assessor's report and documentation about the centre's internal verification process. There is an extremely good understanding of the evidence requirements for the unit as many centres have now presented for several years and all centres submitted all mandatory evidence. The assessor reports submitted by many centres were completed with very useful comments regarding the grading decisions made. These comments provided a very valuable insight into the assessors' thoughts and greatly assisted in the external verification process.

Administration of assessments

All centres used the templates provided on the SQA website. These were completed in full and all mandatory pieces of evidence were submitted. Most assessor reports contained high quality comments that were very helpful in the external verification process. However, centres should ensure that comments in the assessor report are directed at verifiers, both internal and external, and not to the candidate.

Many centres have a well-developed, robust internal verification process with a wide variety of approaches in evidence. With most centres presenting in several curricular areas, there were some excellent examples of inter-departmental verification of projects across subject areas within a centre. This approach provides excellent support towards the accuracy of grading decisions.

Areas of good practice

The support and advice given to many candidates in choosing their projects meant that they were very clearly interdisciplinary, with several links and pathways within the objectives. This made it much easier for candidates to access all assessment criteria.

It is evident from submissions from returning centres that the feedback and guidance given in previous verification reports has been put into practice.

Some centres encouraged candidates to carry out a very full initial skills evaluation. This proved a very useful reference for the candidate in their Self-evaluation.

Specific areas for improvement

The Evaluation of projects were mostly carried out to a high standard, but candidates should be encouraged to use the prompts in the templates when completing them, providing evidence from their project to support their evaluation.

Candidates should be encouraged to put more thought into their dependencies and contingencies within the Plan. Dependencies can often be backed up with a detailed timeline but in many cases, contingencies were trivial in nature and did not relate to the actual project.

In the assessor report, comments relating to the Presentation of project findings could more clearly explain how the candidate's presentation related to the grading criteria.