



**National Qualifications 2022**  
**Qualification Verification Summary Report**  
**Scottish Baccalaureate in Social**  
**Science**

Verification group number: 536

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 Social Science: Interdisciplinary Project**

### **General comments**

A total of six centres were selected for external verification out of a total of eight presenting centres. Projects from 12 candidates were verified. Assessment decisions made by five centres were verified as being in line with the national standard (83%). These centres were commended for the accuracy of their judgements. The grading decisions made by one centre were not in line with national standards. Assessment decisions for four candidates were deemed to have been lenient, and lower grades were recommended.

### **Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials**

With no external verification taking place for the past two years, for several centres this year was their first external verification. Most centres made assessment decisions in line with national standards and have developed a sound understanding of the unit specifications and the instruments of assessment. Where centres had not made accurate decisions, verification reports have recommended more careful reference to the unit specification and exemplification materials to improve understanding.

### **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. In general, assessors have a clear understanding of the evidence required for the Interdisciplinary Project Unit. However, there continues to be an issue with some centres submitting progress logs, interim reviews and in some cases copies of presentations along with the mandatory pieces of evidence. The checklist provided by SQA along with the submission paperwork should prevent this being an issue in the future.

There continues to be some issues with the inclusion of relevant detailed timescales. As timescales and milestones are required to meet one of the grade C criteria for the Plan, omission results in an unsuccessful verification, although this can be addressed post-verification.

## **Administration of assessments**

The templates provided on the SQA website were used by all centres. In general, assessor reports contained good comments relating to the grading decisions made.

All centres provided evidence of their internal verification process, although the quality of the information varied greatly. Where a centre chooses to submit a whole-school policy, an additional statement specifically relevant to the internal verification of the Interdisciplinary Project should be included.

## **Areas of good practice**

Several centres that present in more than one subject area have developed very good candidate and assessor support networks within the centre. This also feeds into a strong internal verification process ensuring greater accuracy of grading decisions.

There is evidence of candidates making good use of the italicised prompts within each section of the templates. This helps them focus on what is required within each section.

Candidates continue to be innovative in their research and presenting methods, making full use of technology and social media.

## **Specific areas for improvement**

With little guidance over the last two years, the topics chosen by some candidates, endorsed by their supporting assessors, have been somewhat limited in scope. Being an Interdisciplinary Project, there is a need for a significant number of links across at least two disciplines in order to meet the minimum for a grade C. In general, the broader the scope of the project, the easier it is for the candidate to access all grading criteria. Any topics that meet the requirements for subject Advanced Higher projects will require more strands and links in order to meet the requirements for the Interdisciplinary Project.

The scope of any group projects candidates choose to undertake should be sufficiently broad to allow each individual opportunities to access all grading criteria. A group project needs to be more than simply taking a large topic and dividing up the work involved.