



**Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project**

**Qualification Verification Summary Report 2023–24**

**BAC Social Science**

**Verification group number: 536**

## **General comments**

The number of candidates presented for the Interdisciplinary Project has grown slightly over the past few years. It is apparent that there are a number of centres working across the four Scottish Baccalaureate curricular areas, sharing knowledge and expertise.

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

Information on all of the above can be found on the SQA website.

As indicated in many of the internal verification documents, centres are making use of the material available on the website. Discussion of the course arrangements, unit specifications and instruments of assessment between assessors, supporting staff and candidates is good practice. The exemplification materials are updated regularly and, through the commentaries provided, give guidance to assessors and candidates on gradings A–C.

## **Evidence requirements**

The majority of centres have a strong understanding of the evidence requirements, guiding their candidates to complete all templates in full. Assessors should encourage candidates to use the italicised prompts in each section to help them with their input. This will allow candidates to access all grading criteria more successfully.

## **Administration of assessments**

Presenting centres have an understanding of the assessment procedure. All centres submitted full assessor reports with high quality comments justifying the grading decisions made by the assessor.

## **Verification**

Internal verification documents provided by some centres are well developed and show clearly the process within the centre. There are however a few centres which did not submit the internal verification documents. Any non-submission of mandatory documentation leads to a hold being placed on results until they are submitted for external verification.

## **Areas of good practice reported on during session 2023–24**

Some candidates chose very interesting and relevant project topics, allowing them to develop their skills in many areas.

Almost all centres presenting candidates for the Social Science Interdisciplinary Project also presented in other curricular areas, with most forming a collegiate group within the centre to support their candidates. This is a commendable approach as it allows consistency of

support, widens knowledge of the assessment process, allows for greater grading accuracy and provides an ideal opportunity for a robust internal verification process.

## **Specific areas for improvement reported during session 2023–24**

There have been several projects this year which appear little more than a slight expansion on the dissertations required for Advanced Higher. Any relevance of these projects to the broad contexts are tenuous, meaning that it is more challenging for candidates to access all grading criteria.

Centres should ensure that they use the checklist provided by SQA to ensure that all mandatory pieces of evidence have been included in submissions.

Some centres continue to include progress logs and interim reviews along with the seven pieces of mandatory candidate evidence. These are not required and centres have been advised of this in their verification outcome report.