



Scottish Baccalaureates

The Scottish Baccalaureate in Languages

by Lorna Grant



Aims of the Baccalaureate

- ◆ Promote the study of languages
- ◆ Raise the status and value of S6 and motivate learners
- ◆ Provide qualifications which are valued for entry to higher education
- ◆ Provide a bridge between school and higher education or employment
- ◆ Encourage collaboration between schools and further/higher education institutions
- ◆ Allow learners to relate and apply learning to realistic contexts
- ◆ Enable learners to compete in the international job market
- ◆ Develop the generic skills for learning, employment, life

Course Requirements

- 2 AH Courses
- 1 H Course
(two eligible modern languages, one of which must be at AH level and English, ESOL or Gàidhlig, which can be AH or H level)
- The Interdisciplinary Project

The Scottish Baccalaureate will be awarded at Pass or Distinction

Criteria for Distinction:

Grade A in one eligible AH course

Grade A in one other component

Grade B in the other two components



The Interdisciplinary Project Component

- ◆ May be taught as a stand-alone unit
- ◆ A Level 7 (Advanced Higher) Unit
- ◆ A process based project
- ◆ In five stages, assessed holistically
- ◆ Graded A,B or C
- ◆ Attracts UCAS tariff points, 65 for A, 55 for B, 45 for C
- ◆ Is internally assessed by centres and externally verified by SQA

Candidate Autonomy

The candidate chooses:

- The project theme
- The way to undertake the project
- The contacts to be made
- The way to present findings
- The audience or audiences for the presentation

The teacher is mentor/facilitator

How some pupils have presented their projects

- ◆ Oral presentations
- ◆ Written Reports
- ◆ Films
- ◆ Web pages
- ◆ Information leaflets
- ◆ E-magazine
- ◆ Open Days/Seminars/Information Days
- ◆ Teaching activities
- ◆ Musical compositions



The Five Stages of the Project

- ◆ Proposal
- ◆ Plan
- ◆ Presentation of findings/product
- ◆ Evaluation of Project
- ◆ Self-evaluation

There are templates or e-portfolio to store project information

Context of the Project

The project, which must involve a languages based investigation or practical assignment, will explore and bring out the relevance of languages in one or more of the following broad contexts:

- Employability
- Enterprise
- Sustainable development
- Citizenship
- Economic development



The skills to be developed

The candidate will develop and demonstrate the following generic and cognitive skills:

- Application of subject knowledge and understanding
- Research
- Interpersonal skills
- Planning
- Independent learning
- Problem solving
- Presentation skills
- Evaluation skills



Links that have been made

- ◆ Universities/colleges
- ◆ Local businesses/organisations
- ◆ SCILT
- ◆ Cultural Institutes
- ◆ Schools abroad
- ◆ Visit Scotland/Scottish Government
- ◆ Scottish Enterprise
- ◆ Teachers/Fellow pupils



Resources Available on SQA's Website

(www.sqa.org.uk/baccalaureates)

- ◆ Assessment Support Pack
- ◆ Assessment Exemplars
- ◆ Introductory presentations
- ◆ Case Studies
- ◆ Candidate Guide
- ◆ Proposal Audit Tool
- ◆ Reflective Diary Template
- ◆ Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits for candidates?

- ◆ Enhanced learning and development
- ◆ Preparation for further study/employment
- ◆ Stimulation of interest in the subject area
- ◆ Increased confidence
- ◆ Improved communication, study, presentation skills
- ◆ More able to 'hit the ground running' at university or in the workplace

What some of last year's candidates said

- ◆ 'I have noticed that whereas previously I tended to ask for help as soon as I encountered any problem, now I am more likely to independently find a logical solution.'
- ◆ 'I have broadened my skills by presenting in a more formal manner to different audiences.'
- ◆ 'I am proud of my achievements. I can admit mistakes but also admit successes.'
- ◆ 'I have thoroughly enjoyed learning so many new skills and discovering new ideas which will be beneficial for future research and studies in university.'

The June 2011 Support Event



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