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
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 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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