

“Obesity and its Various Causes”

(B Grade)

Introduction

This project provides a good exemplar of an interdisciplinary project that was undertaken as a stand alone Unit rather than to contribute to the Science Baccalaureate. The candidate planned, conducted and presented a thoughtful piece of research which developed her Advanced Higher Social Sciences whilst enhancing their knowledge of Higher Chemistry and Biology that had been studied earlier.

The candidate’s evidence was presented using the SQA templates. This is helpful as it helps to guide the candidate to include relevant evidence that is needed for assessment purposes. The Assessor comments were detailed and the additional templates provided additional information, referenced to the A and C Grade Criteria, which is useful during External Verification – as well as helping the Assessor and Internal Verifier determine the appropriate grade for the project.

The centre had a good quality assurance process in place. The candidate’s evidence made it clear that contact with mentors and the school partnership with a local university helped with skills development and in providing valuable guidance throughout the Interdisciplinary Project. The candidate developed some good external links and utilised these well.

Proposal

The proposal is detailed and there are clear reasons given for the candidate choosing this area to research. The Broad Contexts have been carefully considered and reasoned discussion given. From this proposal it is clear to see that the candidate planned to access a range of learning environments and that there was plenty of scope for her to work beyond the scope of her own academic centre. The proposal includes a detailed initial skills evaluation broken down by the candidate’s view of her own strengths and weaknesses at the start of the project. This will be valuable to the candidate at the end of the process as she reflects upon how her skills have developed during the process. Finally, the Assessors audit of the proposal clearly identified where the candidate had met the A and C Grade Criteria.

Plan

The plan includes a detailed Gantt chart alongside a month-by-month breakdown of activities. It is clear that the candidate had put considerable thought into the planning of this project and there were a detailed range of activities, resources and research methods planned and described. The range of planned activities ensured that the project was interdisciplinary in nature and incorporated a variety of learning environments. It follows on closely from the proposal and indicated a well-thought out project. Dependencies were thought through and outlined and a list of contingencies given. The candidate could have explained in more detail how each dependency could impact on the project. With regard to the contingencies, the candidate could have put more thought into how they would overcome anticipated problems and there was perhaps scope for the candidate to show a little more creativity in developing solutions to anticipated problems. However the assessor feedback explains that the candidate demonstrated in discussions that she had considered the contingencies and has therefore achieved the A Grade Criteria. Once again, the Assessor Audit of the plan provided a useful source of additional information for External Verification purposes.

Presentation of Project Findings/Product

The candidate gave a clear description of the presentation, with reasons given for the nature of the audience and why they were chosen. This piece of evidence did not provide the rich evidence from the candidate that had been provided by both the proposal and the plan. The adapted template used by the assessor provides a valuable source of information for External Verification purposes. The adapted template used by the assessor provides a valuable source of information for External Verification purposes.

Evaluation of Project

Overall, the Evaluation provides a good summary of the project and the process that the candidate has gone through. It includes an analysis of strengths, weaknesses and learning points which is good. There is evidence that the candidate has reviewed the process that she has undertaken and reflected upon the methods that she used with when undertaking the project. The assessor comments are valuable in supporting the candidate achieving the C grade criteria

and provided additional insight which was very helpful for External Verification purposes.

To meet the A grade criteria the Evaluation needed to be significantly more incisive. The candidate could have used her detailed Proposal and Plan again at this stage – this would have helped her to reflect with more depth about how she had met/not met her original objectives and ensured that this particular piece of evidence had a more structured reflective style. Also reference to her progress log/reflective diary could have helped to develop the evaluation enabling it to have more depth and be more incisive in nature.

Self-evaluation

The self-evaluation was written in a manner that was well-structured and easy to follow. There was a lot of detail and the evidence given which helped to illustrate the points that the candidate was trying to make. The self-evaluation has a honest feel to it – it reads as though it reflects the candidates thoughts and views with regard to the process that she has been through. The comments from the assessor are detailed and support the candidate's evidence.

The final, non-mandatory section of the self-evaluation allows the candidate to reflect upon their experiences throughout the project. The candidate provides evidence here that is valuable and much of which could have helped to develop the earlier Evaluation that they completed.

Overview

Overall, the project indicates a candidate who worked independently to meet their objectives. It was an interesting project as the candidate knew from the outset that they would be approaching it from a Social Sciences angle as they were not taking any sciences at Advanced Higher. It was pleasing to see the candidate thinking about incorporating the subjects that were being taken with the sciences that had been studied to Higher level.