

# Candidate 2 evidence

## Interdisciplinary Project

### Proposal

<b>Candidate name</b>	
<b>SCN</b>	
<b>Centre name</b>	
<b>Assessor name</b>	
<b>Project title</b>	Lithuania's transition from closed to open economy and FDI impact on its economic growth after the collapse of the Soviet Union.
<b>Chosen subject</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Expressive Arts <input type="checkbox"/> Languages <input type="checkbox"/> Sciences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b><u>Social Sciences</u></b>
<b>Project outline</b> ( <i>what it is you want to do and how will you go about it</i> )	
<p>I aim to explore how the collapse of the Soviet Union impacted Lithuania's economy as it transitioned from a closed economy to an open economy. The aim of my project is to analyse how the increase in foreign direct investment impacted Lithuania's economic growth and answer the questions of why Lithuania is attractive to foreign investors and can it sustain its rapid economic growth.</p> <p>I will investigate how Lithuania's economic policies, Human Development Index and standard of living changed, and how these incentivised other countries to invest in Lithuania. Also, I will analyse the impacts of foreign investments towards Lithuania's economic growth.</p> <p>I also aim to present my findings to an older group of students who will understand the terminology that I will use better than pupils in younger years. I believe that my research could help pupils who are doing Higher or Advanced Higher business or economics as my project covers the topics of foreign direct investment and economic growth, both of which are prominent topics in the Higher and Advanced Higher business and economics courses, and it could help them with understanding these topics better when explained in a real-life context.</p>	
<b>Reasons for choosing this project</b> ( <i>eg personal interest, future plans, links to other subjects you are studying/ have studied</i> )	
<p>I have chosen to research this topic for two reasons. Firstly, both of my parents are from Lithuania and I grew up with stories about how difficult life was when growing up in the Soviet Union. Every time I visit Lithuania, I am fascinated how fast Lithuania is transforming from a former soviet country into an innovative and open-minded country that is constantly changing and developing.</p>	

Secondly, this topic primarily focuses on the subject of economics, which I studied for Higher and find very interesting. I am currently studying Advanced Higher business management, which helps me in finding out the reasons why businesses decided to choose Lithuania to invest in.

I plan to study economics, business and finance in university, and this project will give me the opportunity to deepen my knowledge and understanding of these areas, practice my research skills and develop my independent learning and critical thinking.

**The broad contexts this project will cover are**

*(Explain the ways in which the theme of your project is relevant to one or more of the broad contexts of citizenship, economic development, employability, enterprise, and sustainable development.)*

**Citizenship:** The topic relates to citizenship as I will discuss the effects of the post-Soviet development on Lithuanians and how the standard of living and Human Development Index improved. The standard of living of a country is measured using GDP which shows how many goods and services are available per person. The Human Development Index is measured by income per person, life expectancy, expected years of schooling, literacy rate and whether the country is developed, emerging or developing.

**Economic development:** This topic relates to economic development as I will explore Lithuania's economic development in the post-Soviet era. I will also analyse how an increase in foreign direct investment impacted Lithuania's economic growth.

**Enterprise:** My chosen topic relates to enterprise as I will be interviewing representatives of global businesses to find out their reasons for investing in Lithuania.

**Employability:** My topic relates to employability as I will be discussing how the collapse of the Soviet Union impacted Lithuania's economy and how their Human Development Index improved, and a large part of this includes the discussion of skilled labour availability for foreign investors and how this has affected the employment of workers in certain sectors.

**Learning environments I will access are**

To aid me in the investigation of this topic, I will interview representatives of global companies that operate in Lithuania and find out the reasons why they chose Lithuania for investment. I will also analyse information and statistical data from websites, articles and research papers online.

**How I will use my knowledge of my chosen subject area**

I will use my knowledge of economics to aid me in gathering relevant data regarding different economic policies, such as the monetary and fiscal policies, the Human Development Index and standard of living. I will be able to utilise my knowledge of economics to help me analyse the data and present conclusions in a clear and concise manner that can be understood by someone who has no prior experience in economics.

One of my studies topics in Advanced Higher Business Management was "Foreign direct investment in global business". The knowledge I gained from this topic will help me in my analyses of the advantages and disadvantages of the increased foreign direct investment in Lithuania. It will also help me to better understand the challenges that business managers and leaders must deal with while running a company, such as finding and maintaining skilled workforce, increasing labour and material costs, increasing competition and so on.

My knowledge about the Soviet Union and its collapse comes from my external reading of history books and most importantly, from personal insights from my parents and grandparents who were born in the Soviet Union. This knowledge will help me when analysing the economic growth data and comparing the changes after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Another relevant subject that is relevant to writing this project is Modern Studies. My knowledge about contemporary political and social issues of Lithuania comes from watching news channels and reading newspapers. Being bilingual allows me to read the news in English and in Lithuanian which gives me comparative material from different sources and perspectives.

**The skills I will develop and/or improve in the course of this project are:**

*(carry out a short analysis of your current strengths and weaknesses in the skills areas below and how you think your project will allow you to develop and/or improve these skills)*

- *application of subject knowledge and understanding*
  - I will have the opportunity to put into practice my knowledge of field research from business management, which I have not had the opportunity to do previously. I will be able to put this into practice when interviewing representatives from different global businesses. It will give me the opportunity to work on asking questions that are more specific and give more information, which will challenge me to be more creative and precise when coming up with questions.
- *research skills – analysis and evaluation*
  - This is a current strength of mine as I have had previous opportunities to find data and analyse and evaluate it when I did my business management and economics assignments in National 5 and Higher. I was able to analyse and evaluate the data in detail, however I was limited to only secondary data. This project will give me the opportunity to

analyse and evaluate the primary data that I will gather from my interviews precisely and accurately.

- *interpersonal skills – negotiation and collaboration*
  - This is something that I would like to work on as I have not had many opportunities to work collaboratively with other people on a project before. I would like to develop my negotiation and communication skills, and this project will give me the opportunity to do exactly that. I will have to use my negotiation skills to convince busy managers of international companies to find time to answer my questions. I will also have a great opportunity to practice my communication skills while interviewing them.
- *planning: time, resource and information management*
  - This is a skill that will require good organisation to complete this project well and within the deadlines that have been set. My current time management skills will need some improvement if I wish to meet the deadlines without falling behind as well as doing the project to a high standard.
- *independent learning – autonomy and challenge in own learning*
  - I have always worked well on my own, which means that completing this project individually should not be a problem. This challenging project will deepen my own learning skills even further and I am sure that this is a skill that will greatly benefit me in university and further in the working environment.
- *problem solving – critical thinking: logical and creative approaches*
  - My problem-solving skills are something that I will have to work on throughout the course of this project, especially since there are many opportunities for something to not go as planned. For example, I will be relying on other people when conducting interviews to answer questions to the best of their ability. If their answers do not fully answer my questions, I will need to come up with creative solutions on how to compensate for this. Also, I will have to use my critical thinking and draw logical conclusions from their answers and from the data I will collect.
- *presentation skills*
  - With this project I aim to improve my presentation and public speaking skills. Being able to present in an engaging way would be a useful skill to have in university and in the working world. I will need to challenge my creativity to find a way to make my presentation engaging to the audience and find a way to make the topic understandable to people who are not familiar with economics and its specific terms.
- *self evaluation – recognition of own skills development and future areas for development*
  - My previous opportunities to reflect on my own skills were based on my exams and other graded tests and course-works. I hope that the people I work with throughout the course of this project will give me feedback that I can use in my self-evaluation and can help me reflect on what I did well and what I could improve further.

**Assessor feedback to candidate**

I am very happy to approve this interesting project. I know nothing about this area so look forward to finding out more. I love the fact there is a strong family link in this project and I am sure you will get a lot out of this project by finding out more about your parents country of birth.

<b>Proposal approved</b>	✓	<b>Further work required</b>	
<b>Candidate signature</b>			<b>Date</b> 10/9/24
<b>Assessor signature</b>			<b>Date</b> 10/9/24

## Interdisciplinary Project

### Plan

<b>Candidate name</b>	
<b>SCN</b>	
<b>Centre name</b>	
<b>Assessor name</b>	
<b>Project title</b>	Lithuania's transition from closed to open economy and FDI impact on its economic growth after the collapse of the Soviet Union.
<p><b>Is this a group project?</b>    yes    <input type="checkbox"/>    <u>no</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If a group project my individual role or responsibilities will be:</b></p>	
<p><b>Timescales</b> (<i>this should be a detailed timeline and any separate spreadsheets or charts should be included as evidence</i>)</p> <p>(See attached Gantt chart)</p>	
<p><b>Planning</b> (<i>how you are going to meet the agreed objectives of your project</i>)</p> <p>I will begin my project by gathering the required information and statistical data that is associated with the various aspects of Lithuania's economy. I will also gather any data that I can find that explores how foreign direct investment has impacted Lithuania's economy. At the same time, I will contact representatives of global companies that have presence in Lithuania, that would be available to answer my questions. Once all the information that I require has been gathered and interviews completed, I will then analyse and evaluate the impact of FDI on Lithuania's economic growth as well as answer the questions why Lithuania is attractive to foreign investors and can it sustain this rapid growth.</p>	
<p><b>Resources</b> (<i>eg people, materials, places</i>)</p> <p>I will collect data from both primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>I will collect data from secondary sources such as websites, articles and research papers. I will use these sources to find information on how Lithuania's economic policies, Human Development Index and standard of living changed after the collapse</p>	

of the Soviet Union. I will also use statistical data from online resources on how the levels of foreign direct investment changed in Lithuania and how these impacted Lithuania's economic growth.

My primary source of information will be representatives of global companies who have invested in Lithuania. I will phone them and ask questions about their reasons for investing in Lithuania and what challenges they are faced with while operating there. Depending on the representatives' preference and availability, I might send them a questionnaire if they prefer this type of communication instead of an online meeting.

**Research methods** (eg contacting companies, surveys, focus groups, experimentation)

I will contact global companies that have invested in Lithuania and ask for an online meeting with their representatives. I will use interviews as a research method to gather qualitative information from them. My first choice of research methodology will be interviews, however, depending on representatives' preference and availability, I might use questionnaires instead of interviews.

I will use secondary data analysis to gather qualitative and quantitative information about changes in Lithuania's economy after the collapse of the Soviet Union. To analyse this data, I will use thematic analysis.

**Presentation**

- **Who do I think will benefit from listening/reading/looking at my presentation of my project findings/product?**

Pupils studying Higher Economics would benefit from my presentation as my project focuses on the economic growth of a Lithuania. Economic growth and its measures are a large part of the Higher economics course. This would be beneficial as it would allow the pupils currently studying the Higher economics course to understand the topic better when applied to a real-world situation.

My presentation could also benefit pupils who are studying Higher Business Management, especially the "Multinationals" topic, as my project will provide answers on why Lithuania is attractive to global companies.

- **What methods are appropriate to my audience(s) (eg demonstration, presentation software, websites, oral, report, piece of theatre, dvd, wiki/blog or any combination)**

I will present my project in a way that is engaging to people. To do that, I will use Power Point presentation as this will allow me to present my points clearly and concisely, without overwhelming my listeners with too much information at once. At the end of my presentation, I will encourage listeners to ask questions about my topic and my findings.

**Dependencies** (*what is required for your project to go ahead ie reliance on other people or resources, steps in plan that must be completed before starting the next step*)

I need to do background reading on my topic before preparing interview questions and questionnaires so that I can ask questions that are relevant.

I am dependant on the representatives' willingness to spare me some time to ask them questions. I will also rely on the representatives to answer the questions to the best of their ability.

**Contingencies**

<b>Any anticipated problems</b>	<b>My plans for overcoming the anticipated problems.</b>
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<p>1. Representatives from the global companies do not respond back and I have no one to interview.</p> <p>2. The answers to the questions when interviewing the representatives do not provide me with enough information.</p> <p>3. I get nervous when interviewing the representatives and miss opportunities to ask additional relevant questions rather than strictly sticking to my prepared questions.</p>	<p>1. Find a substantial number of companies that have invested into Lithuania and contact them.</p> <p>1. Show understanding of their busy schedules and show flexibility by offering to do a questionnaire instead if they find an interview too time consuming.</p> <p>2. Make sure that the questions being asked are relevant and clear to make sure they answer the questions to the best of their ability.</p> <p>3. Be open-minded, relaxed and remember that if they agreed to be interviewed in the first place, they are willing to help me with my project.</p>
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**Method for recording my skills development and future areas for improvement**

I will record my skills development throughout the project in a reflective diary that I can use to record my ideas for throughout the project, evaluation of my progress so far, and will also allow me to mark my progress and keep me on track with any deadlines.

**Assessor feedback to candidate**

Very good [redacted]. I am happy to approve this plan. I like how there is so much emphasise on contacting and speaking to proessionals.

<b>Plan approved</b>	✓	<b>Further work required</b>	
<b>Candidate signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	24/9/24
<b>Assessor signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	24/9/24

**Interdisciplinary Project**

**Presentation of Project Findings/Product**

<b>Candidate name</b>	
<b>SCN</b>	
<b>Centre name</b>	

<b>Assessor name</b>	
<b>Project title</b>	Lithuania's transition from closed to open economy and FDI impact on its economic growth after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**How I presented my project findings** *(describe in detail how you presented your project findings and explain the choices you have made with regard to your presentation method(s) and audience(s))*

One method of presenting my findings was a poster. I chose this as I wanted a visual representation of my findings that was clear and concise, with the main points of my findings being clearly highlighted. The poster also allowed me to present my findings in a way that flowed easily and would be easy for anyone who looked at it to understand and follow.

My primary method of presenting my research was through a power point presentation. I felt that this method would be best as I knew that I wanted to convey most of my research verbally so that I could provide a clear and in-depth analysis and explanation of my research with the addition of a few carefully selected visual representations. I also felt that a power point presentation would be most suitable as it helped me to structure my presentation in an engaging and informative way without being too overwhelming for the audience. It also allowed me to express complex data and concepts more effectively with the assistance of infographics such as graphs.

I decided to target an older group of pupils as my target audience, specifically those in S5 and S6 doing Higher and Advanced Higher business or economics. The main topic of focus of project was foreign direct investment and economics growth, both of which are prominent topics in the Higher and Advanced Higher business and economics courses, so I felt that my presentation could benefit them as it could help them with understanding these topics better when explained in a real-life context. I also wanted to target an older age group as I felt that it would be easier for them to understand some of the economic concepts in my presentation.

While I was still in the planning stage of my project, I was quite intimidated at the idea of having to present something to a group of people. However, during the process of doing my research I began to feel more confident in myself as I was interested in my topic and I enjoyed finding out more about it, and this helped me to feel more self-assured as I knew my topic well and I had practiced doing my presentation beforehand to my parents so that I could get a sense of what to expect. During my presentation I was nervous as public speaking is not my strength, but as the presentation progressed, I began to feel more confident. To get some audience participation, I asked if anyone from the audience had any questions about my presentation. I believe that I answered the questions from the audience well.

<b>Assessor feedback to candidate</b>	
<p>Your presentation was a great success – well done! You have mentioned that you felt nervous and unsure of yourself but this did not come across and I thought you were an excellent public speaker. The content was accessible and I understood what you were talking about when I had 'zero' background knowledge which means you have pitched it well.</p>	
<b>Candidate signature</b>	<b>Date</b> 12/2/25
<b>Assessor signature</b>	<b>Date</b> 12/2/25

## Interdisciplinary Project

### Evaluation of project

<b>Candidate name</b>	
<b>SCN</b>	
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<b>Assessor name</b>	
<b>Project title</b>	Lithuania's transition from closed to open economy and FDI impact on its economic growth after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**How successful has my project been overall?** (*consider the strengths, weaknesses and learning points of your planning, implementation and findings/outcomes giving examples to support your comments*)

I believe that the project was successful due to the considerable planning I did to decide what information will be included in both my poster and presentation. One of the strengths in the planning process was that I took the time to arrange the elements of research that I would need to make findings clear and engaging for my target audience. This allowed me to not waste any time with information that I would not need, and to only focus of what I would be including in my presentation. A weakness of my planning was when it came to contacting the managers of foreign companies that operate in Lithuania. I had originally planned to talk to them each individually over the phone in order to have a more personal experience, however, when I realised that it was taking too much time to talk to them all individually with results that wouldn't necessarily be helpful to my final findings, I decided that creating a questionnaire would be more time efficient and would allow me to ask them questions that would get clear and concise answers.

In terms of implementation, one of my biggest strengths was contacting the managers of foreign companies. Once I had developed the questionnaire for the managers to answer, this allowed me to get insightful and authentic information that would let me come to conclusions that came from real business experiences. One of the implementation weaknesses was the number of responses I managed to gather. I contacted 60 managers and only 22 replied back to me. This shows that I could have contacted more managers in order to get a bigger pool of results. This is something that I could consider doing in future projects.

In terms of findings, a strength was that I was able to collect a large amount of information from online sources. A weakness was that some of the sources that I found were outdated, however, the information was relevant and supplied historical context that was useful for understanding the trends over time. While it was

challenging to find up-to-date sources, I was able to work well with what was available and use it effectively within the scope of my project.

In terms of presentation and outcome, a strength was that I was confident with the information that I had gathered and how I presented it. I believe that the power point presentation was a good choice as it allowed me to express my key points with the help of visual aids to help me explain complicated concepts. A weakness of my presentation was that there was limited space on my poster, which means that while I was happy with the information that I had included, I believe that more detail could have been added if space allowed. In general, I received positive feedback, showing that I had communicated my findings effectively. I think that if I were to do the poster again, I might choose to simplify and condense some of the information in order to create room for additional sections of information.

**How effective were my communication methods throughout the project?**

Communication played a key role in my project when contacting managers from foreign companies that operate in Lithuania and when presenting my findings to an audience.

In order to get direct responses from people with real-world experience, I decided to telephone managers of foreign companies that operate in Lithuania and ask them questions about their experiences of operating in Lithuania. However, after the first few phone interviews, the managers asked me to email them my questions instead, so I realised that phone interviews were not the most efficient use of the managers' time, so I decided to create a questionnaire instead, as this would allow me to gather information from focused questions while also being time efficient. The use of a questionnaire also allowed the managers to answer at a time that was most convenient to them. While I believe that my communication with the managers was successful, I could have tried to contact more managers as I had originally contacted 60 but only got 22 responses.

When presenting my findings to my target audience, I decided to use a mostly verbal presentation with a power point presentation that allowed me to present my findings in a structured and engaging way while also providing a few clear infographics such as graphs. The slides provided the key points of my findings as a visual aid while I was able to verbally explain my research in detail. I also created a poster as a second form of visual representation, which allowed me to communicate the summary of my research in a clear and concise way that would be easy for my audience to comprehend. I believe that this combination of both visual and verbal presentation allowed me to communicate my research with my target audience in a way that was easiest for them to follow and understand.

I believe that my chosen methods of communication during the whole project were both efficient and successful, as I was able to clearly illustrate my ideas to the various people that I communicated with.

**Is there any aspect of my project that could be taken further? What might my next steps be?**

The main focus of my project was to explore and analyse how the collapse of the Soviet Union impacted Lithuania's economy and how the increase in foreign direct investment impacted Lithuania's economic growth. I also provided potential solutions that the Lithuanian government could implement to continue attracting foreign investors and maintaining their economic growth. To take my project further, I could expand my analysis to other post-Soviet countries to get a comparison on how successful in transitioning from a closed to open economy each post-Soviet country was. I would also be able to get insight as to what challenges and successes the other countries faced throughout their transition and how they differed from Lithuania's transition.

Additionally, during my presentation I had proposed solutions that the Lithuanian government could implement to retain their foreign investors and maintain their economic growth. To further this, I could delve deeper into the specific impacts that each solution would have on Lithuania's economy and its growth. I could analyse how the solutions would impact economic factors such as employment, income inequality and the quality of life of the population in both the short term and the long term.

<b>Candidate signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	17/3/25
<b>Assessor signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	17/3/25

## Interdisciplinary Project

### Self evaluation of generic and cognitive skills development

<b>Candidate name</b>	
<b>SCN</b>	
<b>Centre name</b>	
<b>Assessor name</b>	
<b>Project title</b>	Lithuania's transition from closed to open economy and FDI impact on its economic growth after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

*In evaluating your skills consider the skills analysis which you carried out at the Proposal stage and how you said you would develop and improve these skills. Now refer to your reflective diary/log/blog and feedback you have received and evaluate how you have developed and/or improved these skills through the work on your Interdisciplinary Project.*

#### **Application of subject knowledge and understanding**

*(Think about practical uses for what you have learned. How did you use your knowledge of your chosen subject area effectively to help you carry out various aspects of your project and how it related to your chosen broad context(s)?)*

My knowledge and understanding of business management was useful when it came to analysing the effects that the transition from a closed to open economy had on businesses operating in Lithuania. It also allowed me to draw conclusions as to what motivated foreign businesses to invest in Lithuania. Additionally, my knowledge of business allowed me to understand the strategy behind decisions that managers would make to ensure that their business remained successful despite constantly changing external factors, for example, adjusting their investment strategies, shifting production methods, or diversifying their market presence.

My knowledge and understanding of economics was useful when it came to analysing the economic effects on Lithuania after its transition from a closed economy to an economy with access to global markets. I was able to understand the effects of this transition on different economic factors such as employment, human development index, foreign direct investment, inflation, GDP growth, and overall economic stability. When creating my presentation, I was able to use my knowledge of complex economic terms to ensure that I could explain them in a way that my audience could understand. For example, I was aware that not everyone in my audience would be aware of terms such as FDI or market liberalisation, so I

took care to define these terms in a way that everyone in my audience could understand.

#### **Research skills – analysis and evaluation**

*(Think about the research process. How did you plan, carry out, analyse and evaluate your research? You should evaluate your research methodologies, tools, resources and contacts, data recording and referencing, reliability and usefulness of data.)*

The research for my project began with the careful planning of what information I wanted to include in my poster and my presentation. This allowed me to focus on only collecting the data that was relevant to the key points that I wanted to communicate.

To carry out my research, I used online resources such as government publications, academic journals and other reputable websites that provided me with the information that I needed. I also communicated with managers of foreign companies with operations in Lithuania to get responses from people with real-world experience. One of the main challenges that I encountered when doing my research was that many of my sources were quite old, however, the information that they provided was still relevant to my project as they provided historical insights into how Lithuania's economy had changed since they became independent from the Soviet Union. Another challenge that I faced was that there was a lot of information that I found from online resources, and I found this overwhelming, however, due to my planning of what information I would need beforehand, I was able to easily filter through the vast amount of data to get only the key information. In addition to secondary research methodologies, I created a questionnaire as a primary research methodology to get the most direct and informative data for my project. Initially, my communication method with the managers was a phone interview, however I soon realised that this was not the most efficient use of their time, so I created a questionnaire instead. The questionnaire was effective as I was able to ask specific questions, while also allowing the managers to elaborate on key points. This method of research was efficient as it allowed the managers to fill out my questionnaire when their busy schedules allowed, while also receiving responses that directly aligned with my research objectives.

#### **Interpersonal skills – negotiate and collaborate**

*(Think about how you considered other peoples' views/feedback, discussed issues of concern, reached a solution where needed, adjusted your approach in response to a situation/environment, showed positive self-belief and had the confidence to offer and ask for support.)*

During the course of my project, my interpersonal skills played a key role. One of my main tasks was to contact managers of foreign companies that operate in

Lithuania and to ask for their help in answering questions relating to my project. At first, I had planned to call each manager individually to have a more personal experience and a better insight into their views, however after interviewing a few managers over the phone, they told me to email them my questions instead, so I realised that a questionnaire would be more convenient for them as they could answer when they had time in their busy schedules.

Initially, I was nervous about contacting the managers as I feared that they would consider the questionnaire as an inconvenience and simply not respond. In spite of this, after I delicately wrote an email that explained my research project, the importance of their input and how filling out the questionnaire would only take up a small amount of time, I felt more confident at reaching out to them. Fortunately, the managers were very understanding of my situation and were happy to fill out my questionnaire. This showed me that being respectful, professional, and clear in my communication would allow me to build positive relationships.

During the course of my project, I showed a positive self-belief through my initial uncertainty at contacting the foreign managers. The experience taught me that even if I was nervous, it was a crucial step in ensuring the success of my project. I was confident in my project and by expressing this to the managers, I was able to contact them with a positive mindset and build the interpersonal connections that I required.

#### **Planning – time, resource and information management**

*(Think about your time management. How did you set targets, monitor/record progress, consider any probable barriers to achievement and take steps to minimise them?)*

Managing my time well was essential for the success of my project, so I approached the project planning stage with carefully considering the tasks that had to be done and what was required to complete them. Firstly, I had to plan what information I wanted to include on my poster and presentation, and this allowed me to save time by not looking for information that was completely irrelevant. Additionally, I created a Gantt chart to better help me understand and visualise the timeline of the tasks that needed to be completed and what resources I would need to complete the tasks to the best of my ability. The Gantt chart allowed me to break down the project into manageable segments and allocate a realistic time for me to complete it, and this allowed me to have a clear idea of what my priorities were. The biggest task that I had to consider in terms of time management was the time that I would have to allocate for my communication with the foreign managers. At first, I wanted to contact the managers by calling them each individually, however I soon realised that it was too time consuming for them, so I adapted to better suit the situation and created a questionnaire instead. I believe that the questionnaire was a better choice as it allowed the managers to respond at a time that best suited them, while also allowing me to complete other tasks while I waited for their responses.

#### **Independent learning – autonomy and challenge in own learning**

*(Think about how you used your skills to make things happen, took the initiative to establish links with other learning environments/opportunities and looked for challenges rather than taking the easy option.)*

During the course of my project, I took advantage of the opportunity to work independently to tackle challenges that helped me to develop my skills and deepen my understanding. One of the main challenges that I faced included creating my poster. This task required me to gather and analyse information from a variety of various sources. This was a challenge because it required me to filter through the relevant and irrelevant information. I then had to create a concise summary of the relevant information that I found to put onto my poster. This task was rewarding as I was able to see the growth in my understanding of the topic as I filtered through the data.

Another challenge that I faced was when it came to communicating with the managers of foreign companies. This was a challenge because I was initially intimidated by the idea of having to speak to people in such high positions. However, I understood how important their insights were to my project, so I reached out to them and asked for their help with my project. I carefully explained what my project was, the value of their insights and how filling out the questionnaire would take only a small amount of time. This experience allowed me to improve my communication skills and improved my self-confidence when approaching people in a professional setting.

Working independently allowed me to apply the skills that I had learned throughout the Higher economics and business courses, such as analysing information and critical thinking. I enjoyed the freedom of not being directed every step of the way throughout my project, as it allowed me to research my topic further than necessary and make connections between different pieces of information that I had gathered from different learning environments, such as the questionnaire that I created for the foreign managers, academic journals and other reputable websites.

#### **Problem solving – creative approaches; critical thinking; logical approaches**

*(Think about your problem-solving skills. How did you generate and explore ideas, use logical and creative approaches, analyse source materials in order to support findings, reflect on problems and possible contributory factors and think critically about possible actions/changes?)*

During the course of my project, I faced multiple challenges that forced me to use my problem-solving skills in order to produce a solution. The biggest challenge that I faced was while gathering data from primary research and contacting the managers of foreign companies. Initially, I had planned to contact each manager individually over the phone to have a personal experience with them, however I soon realised that it was a time-consuming task for them. As a solution to this, I decided to create a questionnaire as I believed that it would be more time efficient while also allowing me to ask focused questions. This decision required me to apply

critical thinking to evaluate what would be the best and time efficient way and which questions I should ask to gather the most informative responses.

When creating my poster and presentation, I had to decide what information I wanted to include to get my main points across to my target audience. I had to find a way which would not overwhelm my audience with too much information, while also being informative enough so that they could understand my presentation. To solve this, I had to critically analyse and decide what information would be the most important, while finding a creative approach to keep my audience engaged. This then allowed me to include only relevant, clear, and concise information into my poster and presentation.

**Presentation skills**

*(Think about how you presented your findings. Evaluate your presentation method(s), choice of audience(s), layout, structure, degree of formality and choice of content. Did your presentation include information/ideas/reflections with supporting detail in a logical order and reach a reasoned conclusion?)*

I was very pleased with the methods of presentation that I chose for my project, as they allowed me to express my findings in an engaging and effective way. For my poster, I chose to take the key points from my presentation and lay them out in a way that flowed logically. For my presentation, I chose to give a verbal presentation, while having a power point presentation as a visual aid. This approach allowed me to explain my findings in a clear and structured way, while having a few visual representations such as graphs to back up my points. I believe that this method was also beneficial as it allowed me to explain in more detail some terms that some people in the audience may not have been aware of, such as foreign direct investment or market liberalisation. I also made sure that my presentation flowed in a structured and logical order, beginning with an introduction of what Lithuania's economy was like immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union, followed by a detailed analysis of the economic impact that FDI had on Lithuania, and concluding with potential solutions that the Lithuanian government could implement in order to retain their foreign investors and maintain their economic growth.

For my audience, I wanted to target older pupils, specifically those doing Higher or Advanced Higher business or economics, as I believed that they would be more likely to understand the context of my findings and certain terms better than pupils in younger year groups. Most of my research stemmed from what I learned at Higher business and economics, so I felt that my project could help pupils currently doing those subjects to better understand these topics when applied to a real-life situation.

**Self evaluation – recognition of own skills development and future areas for development**

*(Think about how you have developed throughout your project. How did you deal with feedback, praise, setbacks and criticism and their impact on your own development of knowledge, skills and understanding? To what extent did you ask for feedback, learn from experiences and how will you use these to inform future progress?)*

During the course of my project, I was able to learn through the process of my independent research. A valuable skill that I developed was filtering through information to get only what was relevant. At the beginning of the project, I was overwhelmed by the amount of information that I found online, but as the project moved forward, I developed the skill to understand what information was relevant to my project. I believe that this is a skill that will be crucial in the future, whether it be in university or in a workplace, as I will need the ability to filter and analyse large amounts of information and data.

Additionally, a key aspect of the project was developing the ability to ask for feedback from others to find ways to make my project better. To do this, I asked my teacher for feedback throughout the different stages of the project. I also asked for feedback from the pupils who came to my presentation on my chosen topic as well as on my presentation skills, and both were constructive and positive. The positive feedback made me feel confident that I had produced a good presentation on an interesting topic. The feedback that I received was useful, and I can use it as I develop my communication and presentation skills in the future.

*This section is not mandatory. It has been included to allow you the opportunity to undertake an overall reflection of your project.*

**Reflection on my experiences throughout this project** (eg things you feel you have achieved, things you have done that you feel particularly proud of, anything you would do differently were you to do something similar in future)

**Skills that I have used in this project that I would like to develop further** (eg using skills in even more challenging situations, more working on your own, more team working)

17/3/25

17/3/25

	September			October				November	
	W/c 16	W/c 23	W/c 30	W/c 7	W/c 14	W/c 21	W/c 28	W/c 4	W/c 11
Prepare proposal	█								
Adjust proposal in accordance with assessor feedback	█								
Prepare plan	█								
Adjust plan in accordance with assessor feedback		█							
Email representatives of companies to set up meetings/questionnaires			█						
Gather data about Lithuania's economic policies, Human Development Index and standards of living using secondary sources				█	█				
October holidays					█				
Gather data about changes in investments in Lithuania using secondary sources						█	█	█	
Talk to representatives of companies								█	█
Analyse and evaluate the information from primary and secondary sources									
Christmas holidays									
Prelims									
Prepare the information for presentation									
Create presentation									
Present topic									
Present findings as a research paper									
Adjust research paper in accordance with assessor feedback									
Self Evaluation									
Evaluation	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█





## Interdisciplinary Project

### Assessor Report

Candidate name \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate number \_\_\_\_\_

Subject area Social Science \_\_\_\_\_

Centre \_\_\_\_\_

Project proposal	Tick as appropriate
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
The title and aims of the project.	✓
Clear aims and reasoned arguments to support the relevance and practicability of the project.	✓
Identification of opportunities for:	
• own skills development	✓
• collaborative working	✓
• accessing less familiar learning environments	✓
• application of subject knowledge in a broad context	✓
• use of knowledge and skills across different disciplines	✓
• making connections between subject knowledge and the wider world	✓
Evidence of the ability to communicate clearly and concisely in advocating the proposal.	✓
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Well conceived proposal which sets creative and challenging goals which are at the same time realistic, achievable and practicable.	✓
Robust and carefully argued justification of the proposal.	✓
Substantial links and understanding of possible connections across disciplines contributing to the project.	✓
<b>Comments</b>	
<p>I think this is an interesting project and [REDACTED] has managed to explain her concept well. She has made it clear what she wants to find out and has also stated that she is well placed to investigate this because she is bilingual. This will hold a great advantage when she comes to speak to people and start interviews. As mentioned I love that this project has been picked because her parents from Lithuania and so there is a close connection that [REDACTED] will have in her investigation. She has also made it clear the links to society and the broad contexts that she will touch on of which there are many.</p>	

Project plan	Tick as appropriate
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
Development of clear project objectives in line with the project proposal.	✓
Relevant and detailed planning strands to enable the project to be implemented, monitored, presented and evaluated.	✓
Realistic timescales and achievable milestones for each stage of the project.	✓
Clear identification of resources needed, research methodologies to be used, opportunities for support and feedback.	✓
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Careful selection and effective use of research/investigation techniques.	✓
Anticipation of probable and possible factors which may impact on the project.	✓
Clear identification of dependencies or reliance on the success of other strands of work and of necessary adjustments to the plan.	✓
Outline the process for achieving own identified development needs.	✓
<b>Comments</b>	
I feel that [REDACTED] has compiled a thorough plan that is well thought through. There is good level of detail in her gantt chart and I like how there is a big focus on contacting professionals and carrying out interviews. She has a good list of dependencies and contingencies and she has spoken about keeping a log book to reflect on her skills development. I therefore feel she has hit all of the criteria above.	

Presentation of project findings/product	Tick as appropriate
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
Evidence of effective and critical use of — resources, research methodologies, information and time management, prioritisation, problem solving approach to reach objectives, feedback, collaborative approaches, self monitoring.	✓
Application of specialist and interdisciplinary subject knowledge to establish meaningful connections within the broad context.	✓
Clear presentation of main findings/outcomes.	✓
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Critical thinking, analysis and reflection used at key stages in the project to construct rigorous arguments, draw convincing, well supported conclusions, identify and resolve issues.	✓
Skilful and creative use of resources, including people, information and learning context to progress the project.	✓
Accurate and deepening of understanding through application of subject knowledge in the chosen context, with meaningful connections well established.	✓
<b>Comments</b>	

■■■■ has delivered a presentation of the highest standard. She spoke clearly and with good eye contact. Her knowledge was exceptional which was particularly shown when answering questions at the end. As mentioned above she managed to pitch the topic in such a way that myself (a biology teacher) could access the complex language of economics. There was lots of evidence of her speaking to professionals and gathering opinions from them. She also started the talk by explaining the relevance to her because of her family links. The history of the country was also explained well with use of striking pictures showing the conditions of the country while under soviet rule. This was another thread and subject incorporated into her project. An excellent talk!

Evaluation of project	Tick as appropriate
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
A critical and justified evaluation of all stages of the project process — planning, implementation and findings/outcomes in terms of strengths, weaknesses and learning points.	✓
Effective use of chosen communication method(s).	✓
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Incisive, well balanced evaluation of the project outcome against project aims, supported convincingly by well selected evidence.	✓
Careful choice and skilful use of communication and presentation methods(s).	✓
<b>Comments</b>	
I think this is another strong section. There is lots of good reflection with examples of things that have gone well and things that can be improved on. I find it interesting that she states only getting 22 responses from business owners in Lithuania was disappointing when I would suggest that is a pretty successful number. She has also mentioned that a switch from phone interviews to questionnaires was more efficient which shows a good capability to adapt. She has communicated well with me all the way through the project by asking questions and clarifying and then she has backed this up by communicating well with the professionals and her audience during the presentation.	

Self evaluation of generic/cognitive skills development	Tick as appropriate
<b>Grade C criteria</b>	
A critical evaluation of own skills development against the list of specified generic/cognitive skills.	✓
A reasoned evaluation of own strengths and key goals for development in the specified list of generic/cognitive skills, which takes account of feedback sought and evidenced from others throughout the project.	✓
<b>Grade A criteria, includes all of above plus</b>	
Insightful, balanced and well structured self evaluation of own development.	✓
Assertive and justified use of feedback from others in evaluation and identification of development areas.	✓
<b>Comments</b>	
Another strong section. [REDACTED] has spoken at length about how her skills have developed while using examples along the way of the project to back this up. She has also spoken about feedback she has received from myself as well as her peers. I know that she has been good at listening to this and adapting her project based on suggestions towards her.	

The overall grade will be:

- A indicative of a highly competent performance which meets the additional Grade A criteria and consistently demonstrated a high degree of autonomy, initiative and effective information management across the five pieces
- B indicative of a competent Grade C performance across the five pieces, but with some aspects of work meeting the criteria for highly competent performance (as outlined by the Grade A criteria)
- C indicative of a competent performance across the five pieces, with all aspects of the work meeting the criteria identified for Grade C performance

Overall Grade Awarded	<u>A</u>	B	C	Unsuccessful
<b>Additional Comments/Overview</b>				
<p>I think this is a strong A grade project. [REDACTED] has come up with a strong idea which includes business and economics but also looking at the history of a country also. She has picked a topic close to her heart and this aspect shown through in her presentation. She has also pushed herself very much to embrace the idea of speaking to as many people as possible to gather views and opinions. Her presentation was of a high standard and was very interesting and informative. A great overall and consistent performance for the whole academic year.</p>				

Assessor signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date 17/3/25

Internal verifier signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date 17/3/25