

Route map through assessment

Course: Modern Languages

Level: National 4

This document is intended to assist teachers in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence.

The vision for the new national qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

This route map aims to signpost all of the relevant material that is available to support your subject. Your professional judgement is vital and the documents listed below are intended to support you in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess candidates.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for modern languages, and this is a good starting point as it provides support to help develop learning and teaching approaches that take forward the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence through Modern Languages National 4.

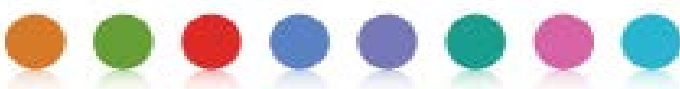
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/m/nqresource_tcm4748223.asp

Modern Languages National 4 course content

The course is made up of three units:

- **Modern Languages: Understanding Language** (*reading and listening – assessed internally*)
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_ModernLanguages_UnderstandingLanguage.pdf
For this unit learners will be required to provide evidence of their reading and listening skills by:
 - showing understanding of **at least one** straightforward written text (*reading*)
 - showing understanding of **at least one** straightforward spoken text (*listening*)
- **Modern Languages: Using Language** (*talking and writing – assessed internally*)
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_ModernLanguages_UsingLanguage.pdf
For this unit learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking and writing skills by:
 - using straightforward spoken language in **at least one** conversation (*talking*)
 - using straightforward written language in **at least one** activity (*writing*)

There is a full package of unit assessment support available on the [SQA Secure](#) website for these mandatory units, including unit assessments for both combined and unit-by-unit approaches.



Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Modern Languages National 4 courses but they can also be stand-alone. Unit support notes follow on from the course support notes.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N4_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf

To achieve the full Modern Languages National 4 award learners must pass all of the units, including the Added Value Unit.

- Added Value Unit – Assignment

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_ModernLanguages_AddedValueUnit.pdf

Added Value Unit

The Added Value Unit will focus on challenge and application. In this unit the learner will apply the language skills developed in the other two component units to investigate and report on a chosen topic in the modern language by:

- reading straightforward texts in the modern language
- selecting relevant information from the texts
- presenting their findings orally, in the modern language, to convey meaning
- responding to questions in the modern language relevant to the chosen topic.

Possible topics for the Added Value Unit could be, for example, home and local area, school, future career, holidays etc.

Requirements for the Added Value Unit

Learners must demonstrate understanding (evidence must be retained for verification purposes) of at least **two** reading passages on a given topic. The evidence should include ‘supported’ tasks, for example filling in gaps, true/false and tick-box answers, as well as questions to show that they have correctly interpreted the overall purpose of the passages.

From their choice of reading stimuli learners should then prepare a **presentation lasting a minimum of 1 minute**, to be delivered to an audience of the class, a group or the class teacher, for example. The presentation content can digress from the original reading topic, but it should still be linked to the original reading stimuli topics.

Following the presentation, learners should be ready to answer **at least four** questions posed by staff/the audience. It is recommended that learners prepare themselves to answer more generic-type questions in the target language in order to make the running of the assessments more fluid and to avoid duplication between the presentation and the follow-up questions, for example ‘Why did you choose to talk about this topic?’ and ‘Is this activity linked to your choice of future job?’ Learners **should not** be asked questions on something that they have already mentioned in the presentation.

Verification

The verification process is intended be supportive to staff.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a school in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all schools.

Quality assurance: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html>.

The following links will also support staff when preparing evidence for verification purposes, including prior verification as well as internal and external verification:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf

Other useful websites

Education Scotland link to support materials for new national qualifications:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningteachingandassessment/curriculumareas/languages/modernlanguages/nqs/index.asp>

Education Scotland advice and guidance for modern languages at National 4 and 5 levels (Glow username and password required):

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/ngcoursematerials/subjects/modernlanguages/index.asp>

NAR resources for modern languages (Glow username and login required):

https://www.narscotland.org.uk/_search.jsp?search_phrase=modern%20languages

Scotland's National Centre for Languages

<http://www.scilt.org.uk/>