Route map through learning, teaching and assessment

Course: Italian   Level: Advanced Higher

This route map is intended to assist staff in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence. It has been developed to signpost the relevant support materials available to assist staff in the planning of learning, teaching and assessment of Advanced Higher Italian.

The vision for the new 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.

These support materials are not intended to constrain staff, hence they are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive. They provide suggestions on approaches to learning and teaching that will provide intellectual challenge to learners either in a formal learning environment or through independent learning. Learners will have the opportunity to develop deep learning and acquire high-level skills such as research and analysis through the medium of Advanced Higher Italian. Staff are encouraged to draw on these materials, and existing materials, to develop programmes of learning which are appropriate to the needs of learners within their own context.

The link to Education Scotland's support materials can be found below together with other subject-specific links you may find helpful as you develop **programmes of learning** for Advanced Higher Italian. These links are followed by a sequential list of the key guidelines, advice and support for Advanced Higher Italian **qualifications**. This information is intended to support staff in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess learners.

Useful links for learning and teaching Advanced Higher Italian

Education Scotland NQ Course Materials on Glow (login and password required)
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/i/nqresource_tcm4855901.asp

Education Scotland – Key Curriculum Support
A quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence:
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/keycfesupport/index.asp

This appears under three headings
- the latest guidance, updates and plans for embedding Curriculum for Excellence
- information on assessment
- information on the new qualifications
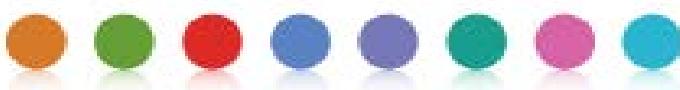
SQA Course and Unit Support Notes
These provide advice and guidance on learning and teaching
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/AHCUSNModernLanguages.pdf

Advanced Higher Italian course content

The main SQA Italian pages are found at http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45775.html with those specifically related to Advanced Higher at http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48456.html. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

The course specification can be found at
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nq/AHCourseSpecModernLanguages.pdf

More detail on course coverage can be found in the Course Support notes.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/AHCUSNModernLanguages.pdf

Further mandatory information on course coverage is found on pages 8-11 of the Course Assessment Specification.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/AHCASModernLanguages.pdf

A course comparison between National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher highlights **points of change and areas of stability** and can be found at:
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/AH_Modern_Languages_Course_comparison.pdf

Practitioners moving from the "old " Higher to the new Advanced Higher should note that the listening contains 2 parts, one monologue and one dialogue on the same topic. Candidates will then choose **one** essay title from the four contexts of society, learning, employability and culture.

Course assessment

At Advanced Higher added value will be assessed in a course assessment. Component one consists of a question paper worth 120 marks. Component two consists of a performance worth 50 marks. Component three consists of a portfolio worth 30 marks. The course will be graded A–D.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/AHCASModernLanguages.pdf

Question Paper

Section 1 – Reading and Translation
As with the previous Advanced Higher Reading paper, one non-fiction text in the modern language will be presented. Learners will provide responses (in English) on the text to demonstrate their ability to understand, analyse and draw inferences from complex and sophisticated written language. Learners may use a dictionary. This section carries **30 marks.** In addition learners will translate part of the text into clear English. This section carries **20 marks**
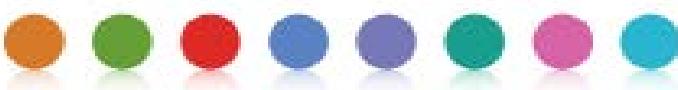
Section 2 – Listening and Discursive Writing

This question paper assesses the skills of listening to understand complex and sophisticated spoken language. Learners will listen to one monologue and one dialogue in the modern language and will answer the questions in English. Learners may use a dictionary. This section carries **30 marks.** Learners will also write one essay using complex and sophisticated language from a choice of essays based on one the four contexts of society, learning, employability and culture. This element carries **40 marks.**

 Performance This section carries **50 marks** and requires candidates to take part in a discussion with a visiting assessor on themes or topics related to the *Specialist study Unit* at least one context from the themes of Society, Learning, Employability or Culture studied in in the *Understanding Language or Using Language* units or the candidate's preparation of the portfolio.

Portfolio: This element carries **30 marks** and requires candidates to produce a piece of writing in English of 1,200-1,500 words, where they will analyse literature and/or media texts or analyse research undertaken into language in a work context.

Specimen question papers and marking instructions can be found at:
Reading and Translating:
 http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ItalianReadingandTranslationSQPAH.pdf

Listening and Discursive Writing:
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ItalianListeningandDiscursiveWritingSQPAH.pdf

Guidance on the use of past paper questions can be found at:
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ItalianSQPAHPPGuidance.pdf

Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Advanced Higher Italian course but they can be taken independently. Unit support notes follow on from the course support notes.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/AHCUSNModernLanguages.pdf

There are three units. Each individual unit has an Advanced Higher unit specification which gives details of the outcomes and assessment standards. A full package of assessment support for these units is available from the SQA secure website.
 https://secure.sqa.org.uk/login.html

Understanding Language (reading and listening):
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nu/AHUnitModLangUnderstandingLanguage.pdf

Using Language (talking and writing):
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nu/AHUnitModLangUsingLanguage.pdf

Specialist Study :
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nu/AHUnitModLangSpecStudy.pdf

In this new unit learners will plan, analyse and draw conclusions from an area of study on literature, media or language in work. This unit may form the basis of the coursework portfolio for candidates undertaking the full Advanced Higher course.

Learners must meet all the outcomes and assessment standards, and staff should read the documentation carefully. Evidence should be generated through learning and teaching. Assessment evidence can be drawn from a variety of activities and presented in a variety of formats. All of the evidence does not have to be generated from one activity but can be from several tasks and assessments carried out throughout the course. Learners should have access to resources to complete the assessment task and no time restrictions should be imposed. Staff should use their professional judgment when looking at the assessment evidence and ensure that minimum competency is met. They should undertake quality assurance regularly.

Three different ways of gathering evidence have been suggested by SQA. The most traditional approach is unit by unit. A combined approach links knowledge and understanding from two or more units together. Many staff will move towards the portfolio approach as their confidence grows. Here evidence is gathered from everyday learning using key classroom tasks. Unit assessment support is kept on the SQA Secure website.

Verification
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html

The verification process is meant to be supportive and not onerous. 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 and carried out by SQA.

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

Staff who devise their own assessments can send them to SQA for prior verification, free of charge. This is only necessary where significant changes have been made to the unit assessment provided by SQA. It gives staff confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

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

As a matter of course, staff should be quality assuring their assessments by carrying out activities that they have used previously, for example double marking and blind marking. Samples of learners' work should be marked by more than one staff member in a department or in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another school.
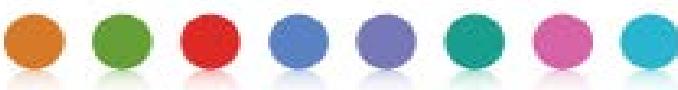
External Verification
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

SQA intend that every school will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place at various points in the year. Twelve samples will be asked for.

Schools must retain the evidence until 31 July of each academic year.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf

Key messages from verification will be put up on the SQA website.

Results Services
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html

SQA offers two services:
- Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (details to be provided to SQA within ten days of the learner sitting the external assessment)
- Post Results Service - this consists of a clerical check and/or a marking review if the centre has concerns about the results of an individual or group.