

Route map through assessment

Course: Gàidhlig

Level: National 4

This document is intended to assist staff 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 learners.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for Gàidhlig, 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 Gàidhlig National 4.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/g/nqresource_tcm4748141.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalq_ualifications&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-740884-64&class=l1+d158233

Gàidhlig National 4 course content

Most of the SQA information on the new national qualifications in Gàidhlig can be found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45675.html>. Information relating specifically to National 4 can be found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47405.html>. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

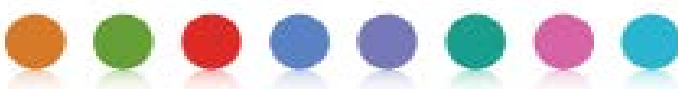
Through this course learners will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and talking in the contexts of literature, language, media and culture. The course is made up of four units: Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation, which develops the receptive skills of reading and listening, Gàidhlig: Creation and Production, which develops the productive skills of writing and talking, an Added Value Unit and a literacy unit.

Internal assessment

The course is made up of four mandatory units, including the Added Value Unit assessment. The two core units are:

Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_Gaidhlig_AnalysisandEvaluation.pdf



Gàidhlig: Creation and Production

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_Gaidhlig_CreationandProduction.pdf

There is also a Gàidhlig literacy unit

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_Gaidhlig_Literacy.pdf

Along with the Added Value Unit assessment, learners must pass all three units in order to gain the full course award. A number of unit assessment support packs (UASPs) have been created by SQA that outline a variety of tools that can be used to gather evidence across the outcomes and assessment standards in each unit. Some UASPs suggest a unit-by-unit approach while others suggest a combined approach. The latter, in particular, is designed to reduce the assessment burden on learners and staff by providing learners with the opportunity to generate evidence for multiple assessment standards, including those detailed in the literacy outcomes, across more than one unit within a single assessment activity.

UASPs may be adapted by centres in order to suit the needs of their learners. This can be done without prior SQA verification provided that similar question types are used and the standard is maintained. Units are assessed on a pass/fail basis. Unlike the NAB assessments that featured in the old national qualifications, a pass is not based on minimum score and assessment questions are not assigned a set number of marks. Instead, staff will exercise professional judgement as to whether each assessment standard is met. This difference in approach is particularly significant in the assessment of reading and listening. Critical essays completed as part of a class literature study cannot be accepted as evidence of achieving assessment standards in reading. When assessing listening, assessment judgements must be based on the learner's ability to analyse and evaluate the features of spoken language. Film and television clips can serve as engaging source texts for listening assessment and should provide plenty of scope for learners to understand and analyse the spoken language. However, the learner's analysis of media techniques in these texts will not serve as evidence of their listening abilities. Judging the evidence tables are built in to UASPs in order to support departments and individual staff in making assessment decisions.

Evidence of learners' achievement might also arise naturally from day-to-day learning activities. For example, a learner might meet some of the assessment standards for talking and/or listening during a group discussion activity. Learning and teaching resources designed for Gàidhlig National 4 can be found at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/gaidhlig/index.asp> (Glow login required).

Literacy

Literacy is one of the mandatory units of Gàidhlig National 4. It can also be achieved as a stand-alone unit. All of the assessment standards within the Gàidhlig literacy unit can be met in combination with those detailed in the two core units (Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation, and Gàidhlig: Creation and Production) or the Added Value Unit, reducing the assessment burden. Staff should note that texts used for gathering evidence for the Gàidhlig literacy unit must be non-fiction. Further information about the assessment standards for the literacy unit can be found at http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_Gaidhlig_Literacy.pdf.

Staff should note that learners may not access a human reader and scribe when being assessed for reading and writing as part of the Gàidhlig National 4 literacy unit. They may, however, be supported by the use of appropriate ICT and other assistive technologies. This will also have implications for Gàidhlig literacy assessment combined with the assessment of any of the other Gàidhlig National 4 units. In addition, although there is no specified minimum word count for the assessment of writing within the Gàidhlig: Creation and Production unit, the Gàidhlig literacy unit states that an assessment of writing must consist of a minimum of 300 words.

Added Value Unit Assessment

At National 4, assessment of added value will be conducted through an Added Value Unit that is internally assessed and externally verified. For National 5 and above, the assessment of added value is captured through the external course assessment. The National 4 Added Value Unit gives learners the opportunity to evidence their ability to apply the skills of reading, writing, listening and talking that they have developed through the other three units. The task is for learners to plan and research a topic of their own choice, which must be within the contexts of language, literature, media or culture.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N4_Languages_Gaidhlig.pdf

Evidence that the learner has met the assessment standards can be found in his/her preparatory notes, which may take the form of a workbook or journal, as well as in the final written or spoken presentation of his/her findings.

Verification

The verification process is intended to 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 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_cccEvidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

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

Other useful websites

Education Scotland national qualifications course materials

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/gaidhlig/index.asp>

(Glow username and password required)

Experiences and outcomes

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningteachingandassessment/curriculumareas/languages/litandgaidhlig/ea ndos/index.asp>

Principles and practice

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningteachingandassessment/curriculumareas/languages/litandgaidhlig/principlesandpractice/index.asp>

Assessing progress and achievement

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningteachingandassessment/assessment/progressandachievement/curriculum/languages/literacyandgaidhlig/progress.asp>

Comann Luchd-teagasig Àrd sgoiltean blog

<http://clas123.wordpress.com/>