

Route map through assessment

Course: Gaelic (Learners)

Level: National 5

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 Gaelic (Learners), 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 Gaelic (Learners) National 5.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/g/nqresource_tcm4748144.asp?strReferringChannel=education-scotland&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-615801-64

Gaelic National 5 course content

The main SQA Gaelic (Learners) page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45901.html>, with pages specifically relating to National 5 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56915.html>.

The course specification can be found at

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_Languages_GaelicLearners.pdf.

There are two units: Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language and Gaelic (Learners): Using Language.

Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language

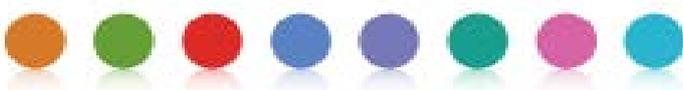
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_UnitSpec_GaelicLearners_N5_Understanding_Language.pdf

Gaelic (Learners): Using Language

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_UnitSpec_GaelicLearners_N5_Using_Language.pdf

Coursework assessment

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoNational5ModernLanguages.pdf



Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Gaelic (Learners) National 5 course 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_N5_Languages_GaelicLearners.pdf

To achieve the full Gaelic (Learners) National 5 award learners must pass all of the units and the course assessment, which includes two question papers and the assessment, which is a talking performance.

Requirements for coursework

The speaking performance is worth 30 marks in total. The marks contribute 30% of the overall marks for the full course award.

The speaking performance has two sections:

Section 1: Presentation (10 marks)

Section 2: Conversation (20 marks, of which 5 are allocated (peg marked) to recognise when learners have engaged in a genuine conversation, for example performances where answers do not come across as scripted or rote learned, and where there would be examples of natural pauses to allow for more spontaneous language to emerge, eg tha sin inntinneach / 's docha / tha e doirbh a ràdh.

Presentation (10 marks)

Learners carry out a spoken presentation in Gaelic using detailed language on a topic chosen from one of the four contexts: society, learning, employability or culture. Learners choose the topic and develop it into a short presentation of approximately 1–2 minutes to allow demonstration of language resource, accuracy, and pronunciation and intonation. Learners may refer to up to five headings of no more than eight words each as prompts during the presentation, and/or use visual aids. These headings may be in Gaelic or English. They are to be used as prompts and not read out verbatim as part of the assessment.

The assessor will listen to the presentation and ask questions based on it in order to engage the learner in a conversation on the topic.

Conversation (20 marks)

Following the prepared presentation, learners will be required to take part in a conversation and to respond to some questions in Gaelic following on naturally from the presentation topic chosen. The conversation should last approximately 4–5 minutes to allow learners to demonstrate their ability to take part in a conversation in Gaelic using detailed language. Learners may refer to other contexts if they wish. The information to be exchanged will be mainly of a factual nature and will also include some ideas and opinions. Learners will also ask questions where appropriate.

Within this section marks will be awarded as follows:

- 15 marks for conversation
- 5 marks for effective communication by using natural language.

The performance should last approximately 5–7 minutes in total.

Evidence retention for the performance

The following learner evidence is required for this assessment:

- An audio or video recording of the performance, which should be retained by centres for verification purposes.
- Assessors should also complete an assessment record of the component grades for each learner and for each of the three peg-marked sections of the performance. These should be retained by the centre.

Contexts

The following link provides staff with ideas of context coverage, as appropriate to National 5.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_Languages_GaelicLearners.pdf

External assessment (carries 70 marks out of 100)

The external course assessment comprises:

- question paper 1: reading and writing
- question paper 2: listening.

Question paper 1 (two sections: (i) reading and (ii) writing)

Section 1 (reading): All questions are mandatory. This section carries **30 marks**.

Three texts in Gaelic will be presented. Learners will provide short responses (in English) on the texts to demonstrate understanding. Learners may use a dictionary.

Section 2 (writing): This section carries **20 marks** (peg marked – 20, 16, 12, 8, 4, 0).

One piece of writing in Gaelic will be produced in response to a stimulus. Learners may use language from each of the four contexts (society, learning, employability and culture). Learners may use a dictionary.

Question paper 2: listening

The question paper will assess the skill of listening. The question paper will have two sections, a monologue and a conversation, with a total of **20 marks**. Learners will answer short responses in English to questions in English, to demonstrate understanding.

SQA specimen question papers for external examination and accompanying marking instructions are available at

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47415.html>.

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/gaeliclearners/coursematerials.asp>

(Glow username and password required)

Experiences and outcomes

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/gaelic_learners_experiences_outcomes_tcm4-539714.pdf

Principles and practice

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/gaelic_learners_principles_practice_tcm4-540001.pdf

Assessing progress and achievement

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

BBC Bitesize

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zgxm39>

Comann Luchd-teagasig Àrd sgoiltean Blog

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