

Route map through assessment

Course: Gàidhlig

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 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 5.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/g/nqresource_tcm4748144.asp

Gàidhlig National 5 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 5 can be found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47412.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 two units: Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation, which develops the receptive skills of reading and listening, and Gàidhlig: Creation and Production, which develops the productive skills of writing and talking.

Internal assessment

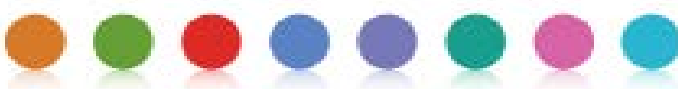
The course is made up of two mandatory units:

Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Gaidhlig_AnalysisandEvaluation.pdf

Gàidhlig: Creation and Production

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Gaidhlig_CreationandProduction.pdf



Along with the course assessment, learners must pass both 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 lessen the assessment burden on learners and staff by providing learners with the opportunity to generate evidence for multiple assessment standards across both units within one assessment activity.

UASPs may be adapted by centres in order to better fit the needs of their learners. This can be done without prior SQA verification provided that similar question types are used and the same assessment standards are applied. 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 their professional judgement as to whether each assessment standard is met. This difference in approach is particularly significant in the assessment of reading and listening. Staff should also note that the assessment of reading must be based on a learner's reading of an unseen text. 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 examine the features of spoken language. Even when listening to a media clip, the learner's analysis of media techniques 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 5 can be found at http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/g/nqresource_tcm4748144.asp (Glow login required).

Unlike at National 4, there is no requirement for learners to pass a literacy unit at National 5. A stand-alone National 5 literacy unit is available and many of its requirements can be evidenced from the two Gàidhlig National 5 units.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Gaidhlig_Literacy.pdf

Staff may also refer to the National 5 literacy bridging pack for guidance on how to collate evidence for learners who wish to be certificated for the National 5 literacy stand-alone unit.

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/67110.html>.

Learners may not access a human reader and scribe when being assessed for reading and writing as part of the National 5 literacy unit. They may, however, be supported by the use of appropriate ICT and other assistive technologies.

Course assessment

Question papers

There are two question papers for Gàidhlig National 5. The first, reading and writing, is worth a total of 50 marks. In Section 1, learners will read one unseen non-fiction text in order to apply the reading skills that they have developed by answering a sequence of questions requiring understanding, analysis and evaluation. In section 2 learners are required to write a critical essay on one of the texts studied over the course. A range of essay questions will be provided, organised by genre (drama, prose, poetry, language and film and television drama).

The assessment is 1 hour 40 minutes long. The SQA specimen question paper for reading and writing can be found at http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GaidhligReadingandWritingSQPN5.pdf.

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.

Conversation (30 marks)

Learners will be required to take part in a conversation lasting approximately 6 minutes to allow them to demonstrate their ability to take part in a conversation in Gaelic using detailed language. This conversation will focus on Gaelic heritage and/or contemporary culture.

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. These should be retained by the centre.

Contexts

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

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_Languages_Gaidhlig.pdf

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/g/nqresource_tcm4756744.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/>