

Route map through assessment

Course: Modern Languages

Level: National 5

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 5.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/m/nqresource_tcm4748227.asp

Modern Languages National 5 course content

The course is made up of two units:

- **Understanding Language unit** (*reading and listening*)
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_ModernLanguages_UnderstandingLanguage.pdf
There is a full package of unit assessment support available on the [SQA SECURE](#) website for this **mandatory unit**. The package includes Unit Assessments for both combined approaches, and also unit-by-unit approaches.
- **Modern Languages: Using Language unit** (*talking and writing*)
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_ModernLanguages_UsingLanguage.pdf
There is a full package of unit assessment support available on the [SQA SECURE](#) website for this **mandatory unit**. The package includes Unit Assessments for both combined approaches, and also unit-by-unit approaches.
- **Coursework assessment – talking performance and question papers**
The talking performance is marked out of 30 by the centre, and marks awarded are verified by SQA
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoNational5ModernLanguages.pdf

Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Modern Languages National 5 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_N5_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf



Requirements for the coursework assessment (performance)

The speaking performance is worth **30 marks** in total. Since the full award is graded out of 100 raw marks, this performance counts for 30% of the overall marks for the full course award.

The talking performance has two sections:

- Section 1 Presentation (10 marks)
- Section 2 Conversation (20 marks, of which 5 are allocated (peg marked) for effective communication by using natural, detailed language, for example performances where answers do not come across as scripted or rote learned, and where there are examples of natural pauses to allow for more spontaneous language to emerge)

Presentation (10 marks)

Learners carry out a spoken presentation in the modern language 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, 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 the modern language 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 the modern language 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 the modern language using detailed language. **Learners may refer to other contexts if they wish**. The information to be exchanged should be mainly of a factual nature and should 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, detailed language (peg marked 5, 3, 0).

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, which should be retained by the centre.

Suggested contexts

Page 23 of the course support notes provides staff with ideas of context coverage appropriate to National 5.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_Languages_ModernLanguages.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: reading and writing)

Section 1 – Reading: All questions are mandatory. This section carries **30 marks**.

Three texts in the modern language 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 the modern language will be produced in response to a stimulus to apply for a job. Learners may use language from each of the four contexts (society, learning, employability and culture). Learners may use a dictionary.

Question paper 2 (listening)

This question paper will assess the skill of listening. The question paper will have one section, with a total of **20 marks**. Learners will listen to one monologue and one short conversation in the modern language. 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/modernlanguages/index.asp>

(Glow username and password required)

Education Scotland new national qualifications support:

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

National Assessment Resource:

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

Scottish Centre for Information on Language Teaching:

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