



Roinn nan Cànan
Language Department
Sprachabteilung

Gaelic (Learners)

Higher

Course information:

- The aim of the course is to encourage communicative competence in Gaelic.
- Pupils will continue to develop their Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening skills through the specified contexts of Culture, Society, Learning and Employability.
- It is expected that pupils will have a sound grasp of language structures and vocabulary which have been taught in S1-S4.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Candidates who are not going to sit the final exam may achieve individual units. These units are assessed internally and marked on a pass/fail basis.

Unit 1: Understanding Language

1. One Reading assessment
2. One Literature assessment
3. One Listening assessment

Unit 2: Using Language

1. One Writing assessment
2. One Talking assessment

There are 5 internal unit assessments in total.

Course Assessment – 120 marks

Paper 1: Reading and Directed Writing

- 2 hours
- 50 marks

Reading:

- Read a Gaelic text and answer questions in English – 20 marks
- Gaelic to English translation – 10 marks
- Dictionary permitted

Writing:

- Choose one writing question from a choice of two.
- There are 20 marks available and a dictionary is permitted.

Paper 2: Listening

- 30 minutes
- 20 marks
- Listen to a short monologue in Gaelic and answer questions in English – 8 marks
- Listening to a conversation and answer questions in English – 12 marks

Talking Exam

- This is worth 30 marks in total
- Candidates will take part in a discussion using detailed and complex language on at least two different contexts. The exam will last approximately 10 minutes.
- The exchange of information is mainly of a factual basis but will also include ideas and opinions.

Writing Assignment

- This is worth 20 marks in total
- Candidates must produce one piece of writing (200–250 words) using detailed and complex language based on one of the following contexts: Society, Employability, Learning or Culture.
- The piece of writing should be discursive in nature. Candidates should express/discuss different viewpoints. They should give reasons for their opinions and draw conclusions.
- The piece of writing will be submitted to SQA in March for marking.

Resources:

- Pupils have access to core vocabulary and notes in form of booklets linked to a range of topics.
- Links to useful websites are shared with pupils. Access to a range of websites allows up-to-date topics to be studied for personal interest and enjoyment e.g. current stories in the news.
- Traditional dictionaries and grammar reference books are supplemented by online versions
- The invaluable resources all around in the community i.e. speakers of the language.
- BBC Bitesize has been updated in line with the new Higher course.
- Free access to Gaelic as it is spoken by proficient speakers of the language is available through the Gaelic television channel BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal.



Progression Pathway

- Pupils who achieve an A or B grade at Higher should be able to progress to Advanced Higher. Pupils are encouraged to discuss their progress with a member of the department.