



Roinn nan Cànan
Language Department
Sprachabteilung

Gaelic (Learners)

National 5

Course information

The aim of the course is to encourage communicative competence in Gaelic.

The course will consist of two sections:

- Understanding Language
- Using Language

Pupils will develop the skills of **Listening and Talking** and **Reading and Writing** which will allow them to:

- **understand** written and spoken Gaelic within a range of specified contexts: **Society, Learning, Culture and Employability**
- **apply and adapt** familiar language in written and spoken Gaelic to make themselves readily understood
- **demonstrate** language skills by means of an externally assessed paper



Assessment:

- This course will be formally assessed by means of external examinations set by SQA in the skills of Listening, Reading and Writing.
- In addition, the course assessment for Talking will be assessed through individual presentations of a chosen topic followed by questions. This will be conducted by teaching staff and is subject to verification by SQA. Finally, candidates will produce a piece of writing in class which will be done under exam conditions and marked externally by SQA.
- Regular formative assessment will continue.
- Talking will be assessed through role play/transactional tasks/group discussions and/or through conversations between pupil and teacher.
- Reading and Listening will be assessed through pupils' responses to written and spoken texts in Gaelic.
- Writing will be assessed regularly with pupils preparing a selection of pieces which may include reports/ reviews and/or informative texts such as e-mails or contributions for a web-page.

Assessment Summary

Course Assessment (Exam) – 120 marks

Exam – 70 marks

Paper 1: Reading and Writing

- 1 hour and 30 minutes
- 50 marks

Reading:

- Read three Gaelic text and answer questions in English – 30 marks
- Dictionary permitted

Writing:

- Write a job application
- There are 20 marks available and a dictionary is permitted.

Paper 2: Listening

- 25 minutes
- 20 marks

Listening:

- 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 – 30 marks

- Candidates will prepare a presentation on a topic of their choice. The presentation is worth a maximum of 10 marks
- Candidates will then engage in a follow-up conversation based on the presentation. The conversation is worth a maximum 20 marks.
- The exam will last approximately 8 minutes.

Assignment – Writing – 20 marks

- Candidates must produce one piece of writing (120–200 words) based on one of the following contexts: Society, Learning or Culture.
- The piece of writing will be submitted to SQA in March for marking.

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

Understanding Language

- One Reading Assessment
- One Listening Assessment

Using Language

- One Writing Assessment
- One Talking Assessment

There are four internal unit assessments in total

Progression Pathway:

- Pupils who attain a National 5 award at Grade A or B should be able to advance to Higher. Pupils are encouraged to discuss their progress with the Languages' Department.

Resources:

- Pupils have access to core vocabulary and notes in the form of booklets linked to a range of topic.
- Audio files to assist with the learning of vocabulary are also available online.
- Links to useful websites are shared with pupils.
- Traditional dictionaries and grammar reference books are supplemented by online versions.
- 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.
- The invaluable resources all around in the community i.e. speakers of the language.
- BBC Bitesize has been updated in line with National Courses.
- Valuable educational material available on www.bbc.co.uk/alba.
- Free access to Gaelic as is spoken by proficient speakers of the language is available through the Gaelic television channel BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal.

Hints for success:

- Regular learning, revising and applying of key points of vocabulary and grammar is essential in order to make progress in any language.
- Regular completion of homework of all kinds is essential.
- Recognition of the invaluable resources available in the community i.e. speakers of the language.