

Higher Gaelic Learners

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.
- At Higher level, pupils will also develop an understanding of Gaelic literature and they will study Gaelic poems and short stories.
- It is expected that pupils will have a sound grasp of language structures and vocabulary which have been taught in S1-S4.

Internal Unit Assessment - 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 - 100 marks

Paper 1: Reading and Writing

- 1 hour and 40 minutes
- 40 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 10 marks available and a dictionary is permitted.

Paper 2: Listening and Literature

- 1 hour and 15 minutes
- 30 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

Literature:

- Choice of five questions.
- Answer one question on a Gaelic short story, poem, novel or play.
- Answer in English
- 10 marks

Talking Exam

- **This is worth 30 marks in total**
- Candidates will prepare a presentation on a topic of their choice. The presentation is worth a maximum of 5 marks
- Candidates will then engage in a follow-up conversation based on the presentation. The conversation is worth a maximum 20 marks.
- The Talking Exam is similar in style to the National 5 Talking Exam.

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.