



Advanced Higher
Course
Specification



Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) Course Specification

Valid from August 2015

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners)

SCQF: level 7 (32 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language (Advanced Higher)	8 SCQF credit points
Gaelic (Learners): Using Language (Advanced Higher)	8 SCQF credit points
Gaelic (Learners): Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)	8 SCQF credit points

Course assessment **8 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Higher Gaelic (Learners) Course

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in Gaelic or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

Learning a new language enables learners to make connections with different people and their cultures and to play a fuller part as global citizens. The ability to use language lies at the centre of thinking and learning.

Language is at the core of thinking. Learners reflect, communicate and develop ideas through language. Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) provides learners with the opportunity to:

- ◆ develop advanced skills in listening and talking, reading and writing, which are essential for learning, work and life
- ◆ use a range of different media effectively for learning and communication
- ◆ further develop an understanding of how language works, and use language to communicate ideas and information in the contexts of society, learning, employability and culture
- ◆ use creative and critical thinking as well as other higher-order language skills to synthesise ideas and arguments
- ◆ develop skills in literary appreciation
- ◆ further enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures
- ◆ explore the interconnected nature of languages
- ◆ develop independent learning skills including research and analytical skills

The study of Gaelic has a unique contribution to make to the development of cultural awareness, as it enhances their understanding and enjoyment of other cultures and of their own. They gain insights into other ways of thinking and other views of the world, and therefore develop a much richer understanding of active citizenship.

Learners encounter a wide range of different types of texts in different media. Building on the four capacities, Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness, and be creative.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The main purpose of Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) is to further develop the skills of listening and talking, reading and writing, in order to understand and use Gaelic.

Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills. In particular, it aims to enable learners to:

- ◆ further develop the ability to listen and talk, read and write in Gaelic, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ further develop the ability to understand and use Gaelic in a range of contexts
- ◆ further develop the language skills of translation
- ◆ further develop grammatical knowledge
- ◆ develop the ability to plan and research, integrating and applying language skills, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ develop independent learning and higher-order language skills

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace. It provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a Gaelic (Learners) qualification at a lower SCQF level.

Progression from Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) includes opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to:

- ◆ Modern Languages for Work Purposes Units
- ◆ further education
- ◆ higher education
- ◆ careers in:
 - translation
 - simultaneous translation
 - the media

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

This Course is made up of three mandatory Units:

- ◆ Gaelic: Understanding Language (Advanced Higher)
- ◆ Gaelic: Using Language (Advanced Higher)
- ◆ Gaelic: Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to further develop and extend their listening and talking, reading and writing skills in order to understand and use Gaelic.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

Gaelic: Understanding Language (Advanced Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop their understanding of cultural and topical issues in the relevant country/countries in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture. Learners develop the skills needed to understand Gaelic in a wide range of contexts by further developing their listening and reading skills, as well as having opportunities to compare and contrast issues and to increase their language proficiency.

Gaelic: Using Language (Advanced Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop their understanding of cultural and topical issues in the relevant country/countries in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture. Learners develop the skills needed to understand Gaelic in a wide range of contexts by further developing their talking and writing skills, as well as offering opportunities to compare and contrast issues and to increase their language proficiency.

Gaelic: Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop skills in analysing and evaluating literature and in understanding the place of Gaelic culture in society. Learners will become skilled in appreciating Gaelic literature from different genres. They will also engage in the individual study of a chosen theme or aspect of Gaelic culture of interest to them.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section.

These cover:

- ◆ advanced listening and talking, reading, and writing skills in Gaelic, as appropriate to purpose and audience, in familiar contexts
- ◆ advanced knowledge and understanding required to understand and use Gaelic, as appropriate to purpose and audience, in familiar contexts
- ◆ understanding an advanced range of grammatical knowledge when using Gaelic
- ◆ advanced knowledge and understanding required to apply the language skills of translation
- ◆ understanding and using advanced Gaelic in the contexts of *society, learning, employability and culture*
- ◆ advanced knowledge and appreciation of Gaelic literature

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows.

Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language (Advanced Higher)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their listening and reading skills in Gaelic, using complex language, in one of the following contexts: society, learning, employability, or culture.

Gaelic (Learners): Using Language (Advanced Higher)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking and writing skills in Gaelic, using complex language, in one of the following contexts: society, learning, employability, or culture.

Gaelic (Learners): Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking and writing skills in Gaelic by evaluating literature and understanding the place of Gaelic culture in society.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units is provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course, as defined in the Course rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ breadth
- ◆ challenge

¹ Definitions can be found here: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58409.html>

Learners will provide evidence of their listening and talking, reading and writing skills, and their ability to understand and use Gaelic in a range of contexts.

The Course assessment will take the form of a [performance](#)² (talking) and a [question paper](#)³ (reading, listening, writing, and literature).

² See link above for definition.

³ See link above for definition.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

5.3 Applying

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

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History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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