

Principal Assessor Report 2002

Assessment Panel:

Gaelic

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
included in this report**

Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners)

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2001	11
Pre appeal	11
Post appeal	11

Number of entries in 2002	11
Pre appeal	
Post appeal	

General comments

Personal Study

Gaelic cultural developments and events featured prominently in the topics chosen, reflecting candidates' awareness of contemporary issues and debates within the Gaelic world. There was much less interest shown in local or family history, although that was not entirely absent. The best studies were informative and clearly presented. The weaker ones tended to provide merely a superficial re-hash of material easily accessible elsewhere. The increasing use of websites calls for clear instructions from the Panel as to the proper referencing of such material.

Folio

Candidates presented an appropriately varied range of pieces, most of them achieving a reasonable level of fluency despite some obvious linguistic weaknesses.

Written Paper

The prose passage proved quite challenging, only one candidate scoring a high mark, but most achieving a reasonable pass, with only one registering a fail. The translation question was fairly well tackled by most, very well tackled by a few. The literature question produced well-informed and thoughtful answers from most of the candidates.

Grade boundaries at C, B and A for each subject area included in the report

Upper A	255	85%
A	210	70%
B	180	60%
C	150	50%

General commentary on grade boundaries

Notional percentage cut-offs for each grade

Question papers and their associated marking schemes are designed to be of the required standard and to meet the assessment specification for the subject/level concerned.

For National courses the examination paper(s) are set in order that a score of approximately 50% of the total marks for all components merits a grade C (based on the grade descriptions for that grade), and similarly a score of 70 % for a grade A. The lowest mark for a grade B is set by the computer software as half way between the C and A grade boundaries.

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

There had been no significant change to the level of difficulty of the Question Paper, so it was not necessary to alter the grade boundaries.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

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Recommendations

Feedback to centres

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Final recommended awards were: Upper A – 1 candidate; A – 7 candidates; B – 1 candidate; C – 2 candidates. It is an observable feature here that, because of the relatively high weighting accorded to the speaking element in the assessment, some candidates achieve higher grades than might be expected from their performance in the externally assessed components alone.

In only the second year of its availability, Gaelic (Learners) Advanced Higher has attracted an encouraging number of candidates, who have clearly been able to cope with the demands of the course in a way that has engaged their interest and stimulated their learning.