

Principal Assessor Report 2002

Assessment Panel:

Gaidhlig/Gaelic (Learners)

Qualification area

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

Gaelic (Learners) Higher Level

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2001	95
Pre appeal	
Post appeal	

Number of entries in 2002	146
Pre appeal	
Post appeal	

General comments re entry numbers

It was encouraging to see more than a 50% increase in the number of candidates. Some of the reason for the increase was due to the number of “mature” candidates who no longer had access to the Higher Grade examination.

General comments

There were many good performances by candidates. This is reflected in the distribution of awards.

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

Maximum mark	240	
Upper A	204+	85%
Lower A	172-203	72%
B	148-171	62%
C	125-147	52%

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

Grade boundaries took into account the standard of candidates, the standard of the examination and teachers' estimates. Final figures were close to teachers' estimates.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

There was a good range of performance, and few questions posed significant difficulties. Some distance-learning candidates performed very well.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Candidates generally performed well in all areas, with all papers being well done. No questions can be highlighted as presenting considerable difficulty, although some candidates lost marks through paying insufficient attention to detail. Some Folios showed a good standard of written Gaelic.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

No areas of outstanding difficulty were apparent; where difficulties arose these tended to be particular to specific candidates.

Areas of common misunderstanding

Few areas identified, although the word “giomaich” in Paper 1A posed a problem for many candidates – this was simply a question of vocabulary.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

In Folios, centres should clearly identify which piece of writing is which, in order to prevent candidates from being penalised indirectly because something is wrongly labelled. Folios should attempt to conform to the suggested word limits recommended by SQA, and attempts to have more original and diverse pieces should be encouraged. It is not permissible to use the same piece of writing for the course assessment and the writing outcomes of the units (Gaelic (Learners) Language Study, Outcome 4; Gaelic (Learners): Listening and Talking Focus, Outcome 4 and Gaelic (Learners): Reading and Writing Focus, Outcome 2). No specific feedback is suggested for Listening and Reading, Recommendations regarding Talk have been the subject of a separate Report.

Feedback to centres from Senior Moderator, on Talk

Candidates' performance was generally very good.

It is recommended that the following feedback be relayed to centres:

- Interviews/talks should not exceed the times specified
- Teachers should not intervene except when necessary
- On some tapes there was evidence of reading
- Teachers should identify candidates, and, if possible submit a separate tape for each candidate – if this is not possible, a gap should be left between candidates' performances.

The attention of centres should be drawn to the rule regarding the reading of scripts and the use of notes.