

Principal Assessor Report 2002

Assessment Panel:

Gaelic

Qualification area

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

Gaidhlig Intermediate 2

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2001	
Pre appeal	7
Post appeal	7

Number of entries in 2002	
Pre appeal	8
Post appeal	

General comments re entry numbers

The number of candidates showed no great increase from last year. However, as the number of candidates at Standard grade increases, it is hoped that there will be an increase in numbers at Intermediate 2 in years to come. The 8 candidates presented this year were from 4 centres.

General comments

All the candidates presented at this level performed reasonably well. The examination papers appeared to be set at an appropriate level and candidates seemed to be presented at the correct level.

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

Max Mark	160
A	112
B	96
C	80

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 was no change in the grade boundaries from previous years, as the level of difficulty of the papers had not changed.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Candidates performed quite well in both the Reading and the Listening examinations. Two of the Folios submitted were very good; the others were average. There was evidence of good creative writing in one Folio in particular.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

In general, candidates coped well with the demands of the papers in Listening and Reading. It was evident that candidates had been presented at the correct level.

Reading

Candidates performed very well in the reading. They were able to understand the passages and to cope quite well with the questions. There were a number of potentially difficult phrases in passage 1, such as "...a' fulang gu mòr air a shàilleabh...", "... Tha na h-achannan a' cur thairis le balaich", "ceannaiche nan tràillean" and "... buidheann charthannais chloinne..." In passage 2 there were phrases such as ".....a' gearan mun t-suidheachadh agus a' maoidheadh orra....." and "Tha an samhla Fair Deal a' comharrachadh nach robh tràillean na luib...." which could have posed problems. However, candidates showed that they were able to understand such phrases.

Candidates generally recognised UNICEF as "...buidheann carthannais chloinne." I am not, however, convinced that they necessarily understood the meaning of that phrase.

Listening

Candidates coped well with these papers also. It was felt that they could relate to the passages. They generally gave quite accurate answers which showed a good level of understanding.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

Reading

Candidates found a few questions to be difficult in the Reading. These included: Pàirt 1 Question 10 and Pàirt 2 Question 4.

Listening

There were a few questions which proved difficult for candidates. These included: Pàirt 1 Questions 4 and 8 and Pàirt 2 Question 3.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

The number of candidates was small but it was felt that all the candidates had been presented at the correct level. They would not have coped with Higher level. Candidates coped well in both the Reading and the Listening and it was obvious that candidates were well prepared for the examinations. They were generally able to answer questions accurately. Two of the folios submitted were very good; the others were average. There was evidence of good creative writing in one folio in particular.

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.