



National 5
Course Assessment
Specification



National 5 Gàidhlig Course Assessment Specification (C732 75)

Valid from August 2013

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

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Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Course assessment

SQA will produce and give instructions for the production and conduct of Course assessments based on the information provided in this document.

Added value

The purpose of the Course assessment is to assess added value of the Course as well as confirming attainment in the Course and providing a grade. The added value for the Course will 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 this Course assessment, added value will focus on the following:

- ◆ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ◆ application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

This added value consists of:

- ◆ the ability to understand, analyse and evaluate an unseen text
- ◆ the ability to apply language skills to chosen tasks

Grading

Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

A learner's overall grade will be determined by their performance across the Course assessment.

Grade description for C

For the award of Grade C, learner will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated successful performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

Grade description for A

For the award of Grade A, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated a consistently high level of performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

Credit

To take account of the extended range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation of learning and integration needed for preparation for external assessment, six SCQF credit points are available in Courses at National 5 and Higher, and eight SCQF credit points in Courses at Advanced Higher. These points will be awarded when a grade D or better is achieved.

Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components: component 1 comprises two question papers, one titled 'Reading and Writing', the other titled 'Listening'. The question paper 'Reading and Writing' will have two Sections. The question paper 'Listening' will have one Section. Component 2 comprises a performance titled 'Talking' and will have one Section.

Component 1 — question paper 1 (reading and writing)

The purpose of this question paper is to assess learners' application of their reading and writing skills in the contexts of Gaelic heritage and contemporary culture.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ apply reading skills in the understanding, analysis and evaluation of a written Gaelic text
- ◆ apply critical reading skills
- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding of appropriate literary context, forms, genres and culture

This question paper will have a combined total mark allocation of 50 marks out of a total of 100 marks. This is 50% of the overall marks for the Course assessment.

This question paper has two Sections.

Section 1, titled 'Reading for Analysis and Evaluation', will have 30 marks (30% of the total mark).

Marks will be awarded for applying reading skills in understanding, analysis and evaluation to one unseen non-fiction text. Assessment will involve answering questions to show these reading skills and completing a task that involves inference making and summarising.

Section 2, titled 'Critical Reading and Writing', will have 20 marks (20% of the total mark).

Marks will be awarded for applying critical reading and writing skills and knowledge in producing one critical essay on a topic drawn from study of the following, which address aspects of Gaelic heritage and contemporary culture: drama, prose, poetry or language.

Question paper 2 (listening)

The purpose of this question paper is to assess learners' application of their listening skills in the contexts of Gaelic heritage and contemporary culture.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ apply listening skills to understand, analyse and evaluate a spoken Gaelic text

The question paper will have 20 marks out of a total of 100 marks. This is 20% of the overall marks for the Course assessment.

This question paper has one Section.

Marks will be awarded to learners for addressing the challenge of applying their listening skills in understanding, analysis and evaluation to a previously unheard detailed text of spoken Gaelic. The text will be non-fiction.

Component 2 — performance (talking)

The purpose of this performance is to provide evidence of the learner's talking skills in Gaelic in a presentation in the context of Gaelic heritage and contemporary culture.

This performance will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ apply their talking skills in Gaelic in discussion
- ◆ apply their knowledge and understanding of an aspect of Gaelic heritage and contemporary culture

The performance will have 30 marks out of a total of 100 marks. This is 30% of the overall marks for the Course assessment.

This performance has one Section.

Learners will take part in a discussion on an aspect of Gaelic heritage and contemporary culture using detailed Gaelic language.

Setting, conducting and marking of assessment

Question paper — reading and writing

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this in 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Question paper — listening

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this in 20 minutes.

Controlled assessment — performance (talking)

This performance is:

- ◆ set by centres within SQA guidelines
- ◆ conducted under a high degree of supervision and control

Evidence will be internally marked by centre staff in line with SQA marking instructions.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

Setting the assessment

Set by centres within SQA guidelines.

Conducting the assessment

Conducted under a high degree of supervision and control.

Learners will complete this performance in at least 4 minutes and under controlled conditions.

The performance will be recorded.

Further mandatory information on Course coverage

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the National 5 Gàidhlig Course. Course assessment will involve sampling the skills, knowledge and understanding. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding also provides the basis for the assessment of Units of the Course.

Knowledge of language

- ◆ The distinction between connotative and denotative uses of language.
- ◆ The names and uses of the main word classes — noun, pronoun, adjective, article, verb, adverb, preposition and conjunction.
- ◆ The names and uses of the basic syntactic units — sentence, clause, phrase/group.
- ◆ The more commonly used conventions of written Gaelic language.
- ◆ A critical terminology for discussing a wide range of texts.

Command of:

- ◆ skills of inference making and summarising
- ◆ knowledge of literary forms and genres, including aspects of heritage
- ◆ knowledge of literature, language and media contexts
- ◆ knowledge of literary techniques and devices, including characterisation, use of dialogue, structure, word choice and tone, narrative stance, mood, creation of a sense of place, conventions of genre, syntax and layout
- ◆ Gaelic orthographic conventions
- ◆ knowledge of Gaelic literary heritage and contemporary culture
- ◆ skills required for discursive and creative writing

Administrative information

Published: June 2013 (version 1.1)

History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	Marks breakdown reworded; Further information on the scope and structure of the question paper/ Performance given in the 'Structure and coverage of Course assessment' section	Qualifications Development Manager	June 2013

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