



Access 2 Modern Languages — draft Course rationale and summary

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Contents

Course rationale	1
Background	1
Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles	2
Purpose and aims of the Course	2
Information about typical learners who might do the Course	3
Course summary	4
Course outline	4
Course structure and conditions of award	4
Assessment	6

Course rationale

Background

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

The Access 2 Modern Languages Course builds on the Modern Languages experiences and outcomes¹. Learning about other countries and cultures enables learners to make connections to other people and therefore play a fuller part as global citizens in the wider world. We reflect, communicate and develop our ideas through language. The Course develops learners' awareness and understanding of another language as well as awareness and understanding of their own language.

The Course encourages learners to appreciate their own community and culture and the community and culture of another country. Learners will also develop their understanding of simple words and phrases in the modern language by reading and listening. They will use writing and talking skills in the modern language to apply this knowledge.

Learners will develop communication skills in the modern language. Their social and interpersonal skills will be developed through sharing information with others in another language. Learners will build confidence and the ability to contribute by engaging and interacting with others.

Learners will communicate in a range of practical and relevant contexts to provide a motivating and contextualised language experience. The Unit *Life in Another Country* provides a clear context for the language learning in any of the other three Units.

Learners living in diverse linguistic settings will develop an awareness of other cultures and of simple vocabulary in another language. They might also wish to develop their language skills for employability in this or another country. Learners who wish to travel or work abroad may also benefit from this Course.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The Course will develop learners' awareness of other communities and cultures and develop learners' language skills.

The Course provides enjoyable and worthwhile educational experiences which will broaden horizons, build awareness of the concepts of community and culture, and encourage simple participation in another community through using its language.

¹ Modern Languages:
<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/learningteachingandassessment/curriculumareas/languages/modernlanguages/index.asp>

In particular, the Course aims to enable learners to:

- ◆ compare aspects of their own community and culture with another community and culture
- ◆ demonstrate an understanding of simple words and phrases in the modern language
- ◆ write or say simple words and phrases in the modern language
- ◆ read or listen to simple words and phrases in the modern language

Course activities also provide opportunities for learners to develop generic and transferable skills, ie communication and social and interpersonal skills.

The integrative design of the Course will foster learners' understanding and use of the modern language, helping them experience the language in the context of community and culture.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is suitable for all learners with an interest in modern languages. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in modern languages and other cultures and for those wanting to progress to higher levels of study.

The Course may also be suitable for those wishing to study Modern Languages for the first time.

This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and further extend their skills developed through the experiences and outcomes for languages across learning.

The Course takes account of the needs of all learners by providing sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed their skills in comparing different communities and cultures and in understanding and using language.

On successful completion of this Course, the learner could progress to:

- ◆ other Units, Courses and Awards at Access 2
- ◆ Languages for Work Purposes (Access 3) Unit
- ◆ Language for Life and Work Award (SCQF level 3)
- ◆ Access 3 Modern Languages Course

Course summary

Course title: Access 2 Modern Languages

SCQF level 2 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course outline

Mandatory Unit

Life in Another Country (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Optional Units

Learners will complete **two** of the following three optional Units:

Personal Language (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Transactional Language (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Language in Work (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

To provide flexibility of choice and opportunities for lateral progression, the Course comprises **one** mandatory Unit and **two** optional Units from the list above.

Course structure and conditions of award

This Course consists of a combination of mandatory and optional Units. Learners who complete the mandatory Units and any combination of optional Units will be able to demonstrate their ability in the same skills. The mandatory Unit provides breadth by introducing learners to the language of another country in the context of its community and culture. The optional Units provide depth, with scope for personalisation and choice, and provide learners with opportunities to develop language skills in different contexts.

Some learners may choose to complete additional optional Units from within the Course. Learners will benefit from this opportunity to extend their learning.

This Course enables learners to develop skills in comparing aspects of their own community and culture with another community and culture, and demonstrate an understanding of simple words and phrases in the modern language.

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

Units can be taught sequentially or in parallel to each other. However, learning and teaching approaches should provide opportunities to integrate skills where possible.

Life in Another Country (Access 2)

This Unit aims to develop learners' awareness of the lives, cultures and communities of others, and an appreciation of the ways in which they are both similar to and different from their own. In this Unit, the study of the foreign country and discussions relating to similarities and differences will be carried out mainly in English.

Learners will also be given opportunities to become familiar with simple relevant words and phrases in the modern language.

Personal Language (Access 2)

This Unit aims to develop learners' basic language skills in understanding very simple personal information in the modern language, either orally or in writing. Learners will also engage in social interaction in the modern language.

Learners will read or listen to words, phrases and simple texts, and will write and speak using words, phrases and simple texts.

Any two topics can be chosen from either 'lifestyles' or 'education'.

Transactional Language (Access 2)

This Unit aims to develop learners' basic language skills through demonstrating understanding of information in the modern language, either presented orally or in writing. Learners will also obtain information, goods or services through using the modern language in an interaction.

Learners will read or listen to words, phrases and simple texts and will write and speak using words, phrases and simple texts.

Any two topics can be chosen from 'the wider world' (shopping, eating out, travel/touring or accommodation).

Language in Work (Access 2)

This Unit aims to develop learners' basic language skills in understanding instructions or requests for information, goods or services in a modern language, either orally or in writing. Learners will also provide information in a modern language, either orally or in writing.

Learners will read or listen to words, phrases and simple texts, and will write and speak using words, phrases and simple texts.

Any two topics can be chosen from 'the world of work' (shops, café/restaurant, travel/tourism or hospitality).

To achieve the Access 2 Modern Languages Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 2 Courses are not graded.

Assessment

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

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

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