



Access 3 Modern Languages — draft Course rationale and summary

August 2011



This edition: August 2011, draft version 1.0

Published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DQ
Ironmills Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1LE

www.sqa.org.uk

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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	5

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

Learning a new language enables learners to make connections with different people and their cultures, and to play a fuller part as global citizens. The ability to use language lies at the centre of thinking and learning.

Language is at the core of thinking. Learners reflect, communicate and develop ideas through language.

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to: develop skills in listening and talking, and reading, which are essential for learning, work and life; use different media effectively for learning and communication; and develop understanding of how language works, and use language to communicate ideas and information.

The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to: use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments; enhance their enjoyment and their understanding of their own and other cultures; and explore the interconnected nature of languages.

The study of a modern language has a unique contribution to make to the development of cultural awareness, as it provides learners with a means of communicating directly with people from different cultures, enhancing their understanding and enjoyment of other cultures and of their own. They gain insights into other ways of thinking and other views of the world, and therefore develop a much richer understanding of active citizenship.

Learners encounter a wide range of different types of texts in different media. Building on the four capacities, the Course enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness, and be creative.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The main purpose of the Course is to develop the skills of listening and talking, and reading, in order to understand and use one of the following languages:

- ◆ Cantonese
- ◆ French
- ◆ Gaelic (Learners)
- ◆ German
- ◆ Italian
- ◆ Mandarin (Simplified or Traditional)
- ◆ Spanish
- ◆ Urdu

The Course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills. In particular, the Course aims to enable learners to develop the ability to:

- ◆ listen and talk, and read in a modern language, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ understand and use a modern language, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ apply knowledge of a modern language

The Course contributes towards the development of literacy skills by providing learners with opportunities to listen and talk, and read in a modern language, and to reflect on how this relates to English.

Successful completion of the Course represents a level of competence closely linked to Basic User level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

The Course provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

Prior learning in the subject is not essential, although the Course provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a broad general education or in Modern Languages qualifications at a lower SCQF level.

The Course is designed to be accessible. The Units are organised by the receptive (listening and reading) and productive (talking) skills of language.

Progression from this Course includes opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to:

- ◆ Modern Languages (National 4)
- ◆ Modern Languages for Work Purposes Units

and ultimately, for some, to employment.

Course summary

Course title: Access 3 Modern Languages

SCQF level 3 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course outline

Mandatory Units

Modern Languages: Understanding Language (Access 3) (9 SCQF credit points)

Modern Languages: Using Language (Access 3) (9 SCQF credit points)

Course structure and conditions of award

This Course is made up of two mandatory Units. The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their listening and talking, and reading skills in order to understand and use a modern language. The two Units, taken together, include the language skills of listening and talking, and reading. The structure of the Units enables learners to focus on the skills required to understand and use a modern language and to integrate listening and talking, and reading skills across the Units. Each Unit also offers opportunities for learners to focus on particular skills.

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

Modern Languages: Understanding Language (Access 3)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop listening and reading skills, and to develop their knowledge of simple language in familiar, everyday contexts. The Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to understand a modern language in one of the following familiar contexts: citizenship, society, learning, employability, or culture.

Modern Languages: Using Language (Access 3)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop talking skills, and to develop their knowledge of simple language in familiar, everyday contexts. The Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop the skill needed to use a modern language in one of the following familiar contexts: citizenship, society, learning, employability, or culture.

To achieve the Access 3 Modern Languages Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 3 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 approaches for Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

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