



Higher Gàidhlig — draft Course rationale and summary

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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

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Learners' ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of their emotions, thinking, learning, and sense of personal identity.

Higher Gàidhlig provides learners with the opportunity to: develop skills in listening and talking, reading, and writing, which are essential for learning, life and work; to develop their ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings, and respond to those of other people; and to use different media effectively for learning and communication.

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to: develop an understanding of how language works, and use language to communicate ideas and information in Gàidhlig; and use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments.

The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to: develop critical literacy skills, personal, interpersonal and team working skills, and independent learning; and to enhance their enjoyment and their understanding of their own and other cultures.

The Course fosters an appreciation of language awareness, and of a wide range of literature and texts. This enables learners to access their own cultural heritage and history, as well as the culture and history of others.

The Course enables learners to understand and use vocabulary, word patterns, text structures and style. Learners recognise, analyse and use language for a range of purposes. Through this Course, learners develop the ability to understand and use language in practical and relevant contexts.

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. Learners develop an appreciation of Scotland's literary and linguistic heritage.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The main purpose of the Course is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop the skills of listening and talking, reading, and writing, in order to understand and use language.

As learners develop their literacy skills, they will be able to process information more easily, apply knowledge of language in practical and relevant contexts, and gain confidence to carry out new and more challenging tasks in a variety of situations.

Building on literacy skills, the Course develops understanding of the complexities of language, including through the study of a wide range of texts. The Course develops high levels of analytical thinking and understanding of the impact of language.

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, read, and write in Gàidhlig, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ the ability to understand, analyse and evaluate texts, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ the ability to create and produce texts, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ the ability to plan and research, integrating and applying language skills as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ the ability to apply knowledge of language
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of Gàidhlig cultural heritage and the cultural heritage of others

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. The Course is suitable for Gàidhlig fluent speakers and for learners who have experienced Gaelic medium education.

The Course provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a broad general education or in Gàidhlig 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 and writing) skills of language.

Progression from Higher Gàidhlig includes opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to:

- ◆ Advanced Higher Gàidhlig
- ◆ Modern Apprenticeships
- ◆ National Certificates
- ◆ further education
- ◆ higher education

and ultimately, for some, to employment.

Course summary

Course title: Higher Gàidhlig

SCQF level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course outline

Mandatory Units

Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation (Higher) (9 SCQF credit points)

Gàidhlig: Creation and Production (Higher) (9 SCQF credit points)

Course assessment

(6 SCQF credit points)

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for 40 additional programmed hours to allow preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

Course structure and conditions of award

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their listening and talking, reading, and writing skills in order to understand and use language. The two Units, taken together, include the four language skills of listening and talking, reading, and writing. The structure of the Units enables learners to focus on the skills required to understand and use language and to integrate listening and talking, reading, and writing 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.

Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation (Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop listening and reading skills in familiar contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to understand, analyse and evaluate detailed and complex language, through the study of a wide range of texts in language, literature and media contexts.

Gàidhlig: Creation and Production (Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop talking and writing skills in familiar contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to create and produce detailed and complex language in both written and oral form.

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Assessment

Information about assessment standards for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provide full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

Unit 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 these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. At Higher, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must 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 and application.

In the Higher Gàidhlig Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

Learners will provide evidence of their listening and talking, reading, and writing skills, and their ability to understand and use Gàidhlig language. The Course assessment will take the form of two [assignments](#) through which learners will demonstrate their writing skills, and their listening and talking skills, and a [question paper](#)² through which learners will demonstrate their reading skills.

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html

² See link above for definitions.