



Access 2 English and Communication

Draft National Course Specification



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

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Contents

Course outline	1
Recommended entry	1
Progression	1
Equality and inclusion	1
Rationale	2
Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles	2
Purpose and aims of the Course	3
Information about typical learners who might do the Course	3
Course structure and conditions of award	4
Course structure	4
Conditions of award	4
Skills, knowledge and understanding	5
Assessment	6
Unit assessment	6
Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work	7
Administrative information	8

Course outline

Course title: Access 2 English and Communication

SCQF: level 2 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

English and Communication: Understanding Language (Access 2)	6 SCQF credit points
English and Communication: Creating Texts (Access 2)	6 SCQF credit points
English and Communication: Listening and Talking (Access 2)	6 SCQF credit points

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre.

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ other Units, Courses and Awards at Access 2, Access 3 English Course, or Access 3 Media Course
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

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 English and Communication Course builds on the experiences and outcomes of the Literacy and English curriculum area and enables learners to develop the ability to understand and use language. Our ability to understand different types of texts and to use language to communicate lies at the centre of the development and expression of our emotions, our thinking, our learning and our sense of personal identity. Developing skills in reading, writing, talking and listening allows learners to engage fully in learning and to access the wider world.

Learners understand language through reading, or listening to and watching, a wide range of texts. The texts which learners read, or listen to and watch, will include media and multimodal texts. The Course will develop learners' ability to read, understand and respond to these texts in a variety of ways to show their understanding.

Learners use language to communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings for different purposes and for different audiences by creating a variety of texts, including media and multimodal texts.

The four literacy skills of reading, writing, talking and listening are of equal importance and the development of these skills will support learners in all aspects of the Course. These skills will enhance learners' ability to communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings and respond to those of other people.

Learners will also develop interpersonal and social skills through interacting with others and will build their confidence through communicating in group and individual situations.

The Course provides opportunities for learners to use their language skills in a range of practical and relevant contexts. In this way, learners will begin to develop an awareness of audience and purpose.

Throughout the Course, reading, writing, talking and listening are the key skills which will be developed.

Purpose and aims of the Course

This Course will develop learners' skills in reading, watching, listening to and understanding texts and in communicating their responses. The Course will also develop learners' ability to use language to communicate, using different media.

The Course aims to enable learners to develop the ability to:

- ◆ read and respond to very simple texts, including media and multimodal texts
- ◆ listen and respond to very simple spoken communication
- ◆ write to communicate ideas, opinions and information
- ◆ talk to communicate ideas, opinions and information

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

The integrative design of the Course will foster learners' language skills, helping them make links between reading and writing, and listening and talking. Learners will apply their literacy skills in a variety of integrated contexts, such as talking and listening in the context of group discussion.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is suitable for all learners with an interest in English and communication. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject and for those wanting to progress to higher levels of study.

This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and extend further the English and communication skills developed through the Literacy and English experiences and outcomes.

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 reading, writing, listening and talking, in understanding and using language, and in communicating their ideas, thoughts and feelings through a variety of texts.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

This Course consists of three mandatory Units only. These Units provide both breadth and depth and, through their open contexts for learning, offer opportunities for personalisation and choice.

The Course enables learners to develop skills in communication with a focus on: reading and responding to very simple texts, including media and multimodal texts; listening and responding to very simple spoken communication; and writing and talking to communicate ideas, opinions and information.

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

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

English and Communication: Understanding Language (Access 2)

This Unit is designed to help learners develop their skills in reading and understanding the different types of texts they read and watch. Texts will be word-based, media or multimodal. Learners will demonstrate their understanding of language by responding in different ways to the texts they read and watch.

English and Communication: Creating Texts (Access 2)

This Unit is designed to help learners develop their skills in communicating ideas, opinions and information by creating a variety of texts, including media and multimodal texts. Learners will develop the ability to create texts for different purposes and audiences, for example, short poems, creating simple advertisements or using simple blogs.

English and Communication: Listening and Talking (Access 2)

This Unit is designed to help learners develop their skills in talking individually or in discussion. Learners will also develop their ability to respond to spoken communication. Learners will develop their interpersonal and social skills through interacting with others.

Conditions of award

To achieve the Access 2 English and Communication Course, the learner must pass all the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 2 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course will be given in the *Course Support Notes*. A broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course is given in this section.

This covers:

- ◆ understanding ideas, opinions and information by reading, listening to, and watching, very simple texts
- ◆ writing very simple texts to communicate ideas, opinions and information
- ◆ knowledge of basic tools for language
- ◆ talking to communicate ideas, opinions and information

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Further information about assessment for the Course will be included in the *Course Support Notes*.

Unit assessment

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

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

English and Communication: Understanding Language (Access 2)

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ understand a range of very simple texts
- ◆ respond to a range of very simple texts

English and Communication: Creating Texts (Access 2)

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ create very simple texts to communicate ideas, opinions or information
- ◆ demonstrate knowledge of basic tools for language

English and Communication: Listening and Talking (Access 2)

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ listen to very simple spoken ideas, opinions or information
- ◆ respond to very simple spoken ideas, opinions or information
- ◆ communicate ideas, opinions or information using the spoken word

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

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

- 1.1 Reading
- 1.2 Writing
- 1.3 Listening and talking

5 Thinking skills

- 5.2 Understanding
- 5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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