



## Access 2 Modern Languages

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## 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

<b>Course outline</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommended entry	1
Progression	1
Equality and inclusion	1
<b>Rationale</b>	<b>2</b>
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
<b>Course structure and conditions of award</b>	<b>4</b>
Course structure	4
Conditions of award	5
<b>Skills, knowledge and understanding</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>7</b>
Unit assessment	7
<b>Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Administrative information</b>	<b>9</b>

## Course outline

**Course title:** Access 2 Modern Languages

**SCQF:** level 2 (18 SCQF credit points)

**Course code:** to be advised

### Mandatory Units

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

### 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

The Course comprises **one** mandatory Unit and **two** optional Units from the list above.

## 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 also 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 qualifications in modern languages or related areas
- ◆ 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 Modern Languages Course builds on the Modern Languages experiences and outcomes. 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.

In particular, the Course aims to enable learners to:

- ◆ compare aspects of their own community and culture with another community and culture
- ◆ show 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 the following broad, 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**

The 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 work towards a qualification in 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.

## **Course structure and conditions of award**

### **Course structure**

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 show 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 show 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.

### **Mandatory Unit**

#### **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.

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

### **Optional Units**

#### **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 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 by using the modern language in an interaction.

*successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor*

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 shopping, eating out, travel/touring, accommodation or an equivalent topic.

### **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 work (shops, café/restaurant, travel/tourism or hospitality).

### **Conditions of award**

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.

## **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 mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section.

In the Mandatory Unit:

- ◆ develop an understanding of the similarities and differences between the learner's own community and culture and the community and culture of another country
- ◆ use very simple words, phrases and texts in the modern language

In the Optional Units:

- ◆ read and listen to very simple words, phrases and texts in the modern language
- ◆ use very simple words, phrases and texts in the modern language
- ◆ interact with a user of the modern language by communicating and responding appropriately
- ◆ develop knowledge about the modern language

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](http://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:

#### **Life in Another Country (Access 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ show an understanding of aspects of the learner's own community and culture and the community and culture of another country
- ◆ use very simple words, phrases and texts in the modern language

#### **Personal Language (Access 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ show understanding of very simple words, phrases and texts in the modern language in the context of lifestyle or education
- ◆ interact with another user of the modern language by communicating and responding in the context of lifestyle or education

#### **Transactional Language (Access 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ show understanding of very simple words, phrases and texts in the modern language in the context of shopping, eating out, travel/touring, accommodation or an equivalent topic
- ◆ interact with another user of the modern language by communicating and responding in the context of shopping, eating out, travel/touring, accommodation or an equivalent topic

#### **Language in Work (Access 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ show understanding of very simple words, phrases and texts in the modern language in the context of work
- ◆ interact with another user of the modern language by communicating and responding in the context of work

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

### **4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship**

- 4.3 Working with others

### **5 Thinking skills**

- 5.1 Remembering
- 5.2 Understanding
- 5.3 Applying

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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**Published:** October 2011 (version 1.0)

**Superclass:** to be advised

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## History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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Note: You are advised to check SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.