



Access 3 Modern Languages

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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Course outline

Course title: Access 3 Modern Languages

SCQF: level 3 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

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

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

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Access 2 Modern Languages Course or component Units

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

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; develop understanding of how language works; use different media effectively for learning and communication; 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 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 different paces.

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.

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to National Courses, and to other SQA qualifications in Modern Languages and other related fields.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

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 three 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 skills needed to use a modern language in one of the following familiar contexts: citizenship, society, learning, employability, or culture.

Conditions of award

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.

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.

These include:

- ◆ listening and talking, and reading skills in a modern language, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar, everyday contexts
- ◆ basic knowledge required to understand and use a modern language, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar, everyday contexts
- ◆ applying simple grammatical knowledge when using a modern language
- ◆ understanding and using a modern language in the contexts of citizenship, society, learning, employability, and culture

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:

Modern Languages: Understanding Language (Access 3)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their listening and reading skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience in one of the following contexts: citizenship, society, learning, employability, or culture.

Modern Languages: Using Language (Access 3)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience in one of the following contexts: citizenship, society, learning, employability, or culture.

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.

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

5.1 Remembering

5.2 Understanding

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