



Modern Languages (National 4)

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: Modern Languages (National 4)

SCQF: level 4 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Modern Languages: Understanding Language (National 4) **9 SCQF credit points**

Modern Languages: Expressing Language (National 4) **9 SCQF credit points**

Added Value Unit

Modern Languages: Assignment (National 4) **6 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for the assessment of added value in the Added Value Unit. Further information on this Unit is provided in the Assessment section.

Recommended entry

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

- ◆ Modern Languages (Access 3) Course or relevant 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 SQA qualifications in Modern Languages or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment or training

This Course is broadly equivalent to Basic User level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

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* and the *Course Assessment Specification*.

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 and 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, reading and writing, which are essential for learning, work and life; to use different media effectively for learning and communication; and to develop understanding of how language works.

The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to use language to communicate ideas and information; to use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments; to enhance their enjoyment and their understanding of their own and other cultures; and to 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, reading and writing 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, read and write in a modern language, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ understand and use a modern language, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ plan and research, integrating and applying language skills 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, read and write 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 and writing) skills of language.

Progression from Modern Languages (National 4) includes opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to:

- ◆ Modern Languages (National 5)
- ◆ Modern Languages for Work Purposes Units
- ◆ further education

and ultimately, for some, to employment.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

This Course is made up of three mandatory Units. The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their listening and talking, reading and writing skills in order to understand and use a modern language. The three 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 a modern 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.

Modern Languages: Understanding Language (National 4)

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 but detailed language in familiar contexts, such as citizenship, society, learning, employability, and culture. The Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to understand a modern language in straightforward contexts.

Modern Languages: Expressing Language (National 4)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop talking and writing skills, and to develop their knowledge of simple but detailed language in familiar contexts. The Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to use a modern language in straightforward contexts.

Added Value Unit: Modern Languages: Assignment (National 4)

The purpose of this Added Value Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to apply and integrate their language skills in a straightforward context. Modern Languages: Assignment enables learners to plan and research a chosen topic in a familiar context, using their reading and writing skills, in order to investigate connections between the topic and the modern language. Modern Languages: Assignment provides learners with the opportunity to present their findings in a short presentation, using their listening and talking skills in the modern language.

Conditions of award

To achieve the Modern Languages (National 4) Course, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 4 Courses are not graded.

Skills and knowledge

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

The Course enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness, and be creative. The following summarises the skills, knowledge and understanding from the mandatory content of the Course:

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

Assessment

Information about assessment 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 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 judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

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

Modern Languages: Understanding Language (National 4)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their listening and reading skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience in a familiar context. Learners will demonstrate knowledge of simple but detailed language in one of the following familiar contexts: citizenship, society, learning, employability, or culture.

Modern Languages: Expressing Language (National 4)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking and writing skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience in a familiar context. Learners will demonstrate knowledge, in both written and oral form, required to use a modern language in one of the following familiar contexts: citizenship, society, learning, employability, or culture.

Added Value Unit

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. At National 4, added value will be assessed in the Unit Modern Languages: Assignment, which is the Added Value Unit. The Added Value Unit will 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 this Course, the Added Value Unit will focus on challenge and application.

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their ability to apply and integrate their language skills. Learners will demonstrate their ability to plan and research a chosen topic in a familiar context, using their reading and writing skills. Learners will present their findings, providing evidence of their listening and talking skills in a modern language.

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

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

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 also develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that are likely to be appropriate for this 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

5.3 Applying

Amplification of these 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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