Gàidhlig (National 5)

Draft National Course Specification

Valid from August 2013

This edition: April 2011, draft version 1.0

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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**
Mandatory Units 1
Recommended entry 1
Progression 2
Equality and inclusion 2

Rationale **3**
Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles 3
Purpose and aims of the Course 4
Information about typical learners who might do the Course 4

Course structure and conditions of award **6**
Course structure 6
Conditions of award 6

Skills and knowledge **7**

Assessment **8**
Unit assessment 8
Course assessment 8

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work **9**

Administrative information **10**

Course outline

Course title: Gàidhlig (National 5)

SCQF: level 5 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation (National 5) **9 SCQF credit points**

Gàidhlig: Creation and Production (National 5) **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.

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:

- Gàidhlig (National 4) 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*.

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Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- other SQA qualifications in Gàidhlig or related areas
- further study, employment 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* and the *Course Assessment Specification.*

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Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect the 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 they 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.

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

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop personal, interpersonal and team working skills; to develop 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

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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 undertake 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 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.

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Progression from Gàidhlig (National 5) includes opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to:

- Gàidhlig (Higher)
- Literacy Unit (SCQF level 5)
- Modern Apprenticeships
- National Certificates
- further education

and ultimately, for some, to employment.

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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, 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 (National 5)
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 language, through the study of a range of texts in language, literature and media contexts.

Gàidhlig: Creation and Production (National 5)
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 language in both written and oral form.

Conditions of award

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.

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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, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar contexts
- understanding, analysing and evaluating a range of texts, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar contexts
- creating and producing a range of texts, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar contexts, in order to organise and use vocabulary, word patterns, text structures and style
- knowledge of detailed language in listening and talking, reading and writing
- knowledge and understanding of Gàidhlig cultural heritage, and the cultural heritage of others

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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 Unit specifications.

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

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.

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

Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation (National 5)
Learners will be required to provide evidence of their listening and reading skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar contexts, through the study of a range of texts in language, literature and media contexts. Learners will provide evidence of their knowledge of detailed language, and their analysis and evaluation skills.

Gàidhlig: Creation and Production (National 5)
Learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking and writing skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience, in familiar contexts. Learners will demonstrate knowledge and understanding required to create and produce detailed texts. Learners will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of technical accuracy in the creation of texts.

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of added value[1]. At National 5, 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 this Course, added value will focus on challenge and 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 an assignment[2] through which learners will demonstrate their writing, listening and talking skills and a question paper[3] 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 definition.
[3] See link above for definition.

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.

1 Literacy
1.1 Reading
1.2 Writing
1.3 Listening and talking

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship
4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills
5.3 Applying
5.4 Analysing and evaluating

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*.

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Administrative information

Published: April 2011 (version 1.0)

Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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