



Advanced Higher Gàidhlig

Draft National Course Assessment Specification



Valid from August 2015

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

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Course outline

Course title:	Advanced Higher Gàidhlig
SCQF level:	7 (32 SCQF credit points)
Course code:	to be advised
Course assessment code:	to be advised

The purpose of the Course Assessment Specification is to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the Course assessment and the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed.

Course assessment structure

Component 1 — question paper	100 marks
Component 2 — performance	50 marks
Total marks	150 marks

This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Assessment Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment. Assessments have been designed to promote equal opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

For guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html.

Guidance on inclusive approaches to delivery and assessment of this Course is provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Course assessment

SQA will produce and give instructions for the production and conduct of Course assessments based on the information provided in this document.

Added value

The purpose of the Course assessment is to assess added value of the Course as well as confirming attainment in the Course and providing a grade. The added value for the Course 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, or application.

In this Course assessment, added value will focus on the following:

- ◆ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ◆ application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

This added value consists of:

- ◆ applying advanced language skills to understand, analyse and evaluate an unseen text
- ◆ applying advanced language skills to use complex written and spoken language, as appropriate to purpose and audience

Grading

Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

A learner's overall grade will be determined by their performance across the Course assessment.

Grade description for C

For the award of Grade C, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated successful performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course. Learners will be able to use an appropriate range of vocabulary, idiom and language structures, present responses with a fair and acceptable degree of accuracy, provide analysis of information that is reasonably comprehensive and accurate, and evaluate texts to some effect, with occasional lapses and inconsistencies.

Grade description for A

For the award of Grade A, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated a consistently high level of performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course. Learners will be able to use a wide range of vocabulary, idiom and language structures, present responses with a high degree of clarity, fluency and accuracy, provide analysis of information that is comprehensive, and evaluate texts clearly, concisely and in detail.

Credit

To take account of the extended range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation of learning and integration needed for preparation for external assessment, six SCQF credit points are available in Courses at National 5 and Higher, and eight SCQF credit points in Courses at Advanced Higher. These points will be awarded when a Grade D or better is achieved.

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Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components — a performance and a question paper.

Component 1 — question paper

The question paper will have 100 marks (66% of the total mark).

The purpose of this question paper is to assess learners' knowledge and skills.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ the ability to apply writing skills
- ◆ the ability to apply critical reading skills
- ◆ the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of appropriate literary context, forms, genres and culture

This question paper has three Sections.

Section 1: Writing

The purpose of this question paper is to allow learners to demonstrate challenge and application in the skill of writing.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ the ability to use complex written Gaelic

Learners write an essay in Gaelic from a list of eight essay titles.

This Section will have 40 marks (27% of the total mark).

Section 2: Practical Criticism

The purpose of this question paper is to allow learners to demonstrate challenge and application in the skill of writing.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ the ability to apply critical reading skills
- ◆ the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of appropriate literary context, forms, genres and culture

Learners will read two written Gaelic texts. The texts will be either fiction or non-fiction.

They will respond to questions about the written texts.

This Section will have 30 marks (20% of the total mark).

Section 3: Literature

The purpose of this question paper is to allow learners to demonstrate challenge and application in the skills of critical analysis and evaluation of literary texts.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ the ability to apply critical reading skills
- ◆ the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of appropriate literary context, forms, genres and culture

Learners write an essay on aspects of a literary text studied. Learners can use a literary text drawn from drama, prose or poetry.

This Section will have 30 marks (20% of the total mark).

Component 2 — performance

The performance will have 50 marks (33% of the total mark).

The purpose of this performance is to assess learners' application of their talking skills based on their chosen topic for the *Specialist Study of Language and/or Culture* Unit.

This performance will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ the ability to use complex spoken Gaelic as part of a discussion
- ◆ the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of appropriate literary context, forms, genres and culture

Setting, conducting and marking of assessment

Question paper, Section 1 — writing

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this question paper in 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Question paper, Section 2 — practical criticism

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this question paper in approximately 50 minutes.

Question paper, Section 3 — literature

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this question paper in approximately 50 minutes.

Controlled assessment — performance

Setting the assessment

Set by centres within SQA guidelines.

Conducting the assessment

Visiting Assessors appointed by SQA will carry out the assessment.

Learners will complete this performance in approximately 20 minutes and under controlled conditions.

Further mandatory information on Course coverage

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Advanced Higher Gàidhlig Course. Course assessment will involve sampling the skills, knowledge and understanding. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding also provides the basis for the assessment of Units of the Course.

1 Knowledge of language:

- ◆ The distinction between connotative and denotative uses of language.
- ◆ The names and uses of the main word classes — noun, pronoun, adjective, article, verb, adverb, preposition and conjunction.
- ◆ The names and uses of the syntactic units — sentence, clause, phrase/group.
- ◆ The conventions of written Gaelic language.
- ◆ A critical terminology for discussing literary texts.

2 Command of:

- ◆ skills of sophisticated inference making and summarising of complex texts
- ◆ knowledge of complex literary forms and genres
- ◆ knowledge of literature
- ◆ knowledge of literary techniques and devices, including: characterisation, use of dialogue, structure, word choice and tone, narrative stance, mood, creation of a sense of place, conventions of genre, syntax and layout
- ◆ Gaelic orthographic conventions
- ◆ knowledge of Gaelic literary heritage
- ◆ skills required for writing

Administrative information

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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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