



Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)

DRAFT GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN

This plan has been prepared under Section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and was approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 2009.

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Foreword

SQA is ambitious for Gaelic in Scotland. We are determined to play a full and committed part in ensuring that the Scottish people and economy benefit from a qualifications and skills system that is all-embracing and delivering and meeting Scotland's needs.

Our qualifications and services must be dynamic and relevant to the needs of business, industry and individuals. We need to ensure everyone in Scotland has the opportunity to reach their full potential. SQA has a major role to play in partnership with the Scottish Government and other stakeholder organisations in driving forward and delivering our ambitions for Gaelic.

The Gaelic Language Act of 2005 and the National Plan for Gaelic are of fundamental importance in enabling SQA and its partner organisations to plan successfully for a sustainable future for the language, not just in Scotland but on the international stage.

SQA recognises the importance of supporting the aspirations and objectives included in the National Plan for Gaelic and the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. Of particular importance, given the educational remit of SQA, is the development of its Gaelic Education Strategy.

The 2005 Act requires public bodies to bring the preparation of their Gaelic Language Plans to the attention of all interested parties. SQA will consult publicly on the draft of its Gaelic Language Plan in 2009 and take into account representations made to it during the consultation process.

Dr Janet Brown
Chief Executive
SQA

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Summary

SQA recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life. SQA is committed to the objectives set out in the National Plan for Gaelic and has put in place the necessary structures and initiatives to ensure that Gaelic has a sustainable future in Scotland.

SQA recognises that the position of Gaelic is extremely fragile and if Gaelic is to be revitalised as a living language in Scotland, a concerted effort on the part of government, the public and private sectors, community organisations and individual speakers is required to:

- ◆ enhance the status of Gaelic
- ◆ promote the acquisition and learning of Gaelic
- ◆ encourage the increased use of Gaelic

This document is SQA's Gaelic Language Plan, and it was prepared within the framework of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. It sets out how we will use Gaelic in the operation of our functions, how we will enable the use of Gaelic when communicating with the public and key partners, and how we will promote and develop Gaelic as part of the National Education Strategy for the language.

SQA's Gaelic Language Plan has been prepared in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and with regard to the National Plan for Gaelic and the Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans.

SQA gratefully acknowledges the assistance and support provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig in the production of this Plan.

Structure of SQA's Gaelic Language Plan

The key components of our Gaelic Language Plan are:

Chapter 1: Introduction

- ◆ Function of SQA
- ◆ How SQA operates
- ◆ Gaelic in SQA's area of operation
- ◆ Approval of SQA's Gaelic Language Plan

Chapter 2: SQA's corporate commitments, values and targets

This chapter sets out how SQA will use, and enable the use of Gaelic in relation to our main business functions. It covers key areas of operation such as corporate identity, signage, communication with the public and the use of Gaelic on our website. This chapter sets out the basic level of Gaelic language provision to which we are committed to providing in the lifetime of this Plan.

Chapter 3: Gaelic education policy and implementation of the National Plan for Gaelic in SQA

This chapter sets out how SQA will help implement the National Plan for Gaelic, showing how we intend promoting the use of Gaelic in education. This chapter also states that we will take account of Gaelic and our Gaelic Language Plan when drafting new policies and considering new strategies.

Chapter 4: Implementation and monitoring

This chapter sets out how the implementation of our Gaelic Language Plan will be taken forward, and how implementation and outcomes will be monitored.

1 Introduction

Function of SQA

SQA is the national body in Scotland for the development, accreditation, assessment and certification of qualifications (other than degrees and some professional qualifications). Our main functions are set out in the Education (Scotland) Act 1996. We are a non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Scottish Government's Schools Directorate.

The core purpose of SQA is to set and maintain standards in education and training through the qualifications and assessments we deliver in schools, in colleges, and in workplace learning. In addition, its accreditation function sets and maintains standards for awarding bodies and accredited qualifications, such as Scottish Vocational Qualifications.

How SQA operates

The Education (Scotland) Act 1996 sets out the functions of SQA. SQA works with colleagues in the Schools and the Lifelong Learning Directorates of the Scottish Government to develop its objectives, and in the delivery of all the organisation's functions and services.

The Scottish Government appoints SQA's Board of Management, which has responsibility for overseeing the work of SQA. The Board sets the strategic direction for the organisation through a robust process of review and approval of the Corporate and Business Plans, which are submitted to Scottish Ministers.

Gaelic in SQA's area of operation

SQA (and its predecessor bodies) has a long-held commitment to the Gaelic Language. National Qualifications for Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig are available at Access 3, Standard Grade, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. SQA is currently developing qualifications in the further and higher education sectors in Scotland to ensure that the needs of the Gaelic learning and working community are addressed across all levels of fluency in the language. There are more details of this provision in Appendix 1.

SQA also currently makes a number of Standard Grade examinations available through the medium of Gaelic: Geography, History, Mathematics and Modern Studies. New models of entry, certification, translation and marking for these courses are now being developed in addition to a commitment to extend the range of subjects available.

A Gaelic Assessment Panel has operated within SQA and its predecessor bodies for decades. Their advice on assessment issues and in relation to wider issues affecting Gaelic education and its status in Scotland has been invaluable in

informing the development of sound language planning principles within the organisation.

Outwith the qualifications sector, SQA has also been able to provide a strong level of support to the language with its widely-used publication *Gaelic Orthographic Conventions*, and a continuing and high-level commitment to the language from its Corporate Services Directorate.

Approval of SQA's Gaelic Language Plan

Engagement with the Gaelic and Gaelic-medium teaching professionals in schools and colleges throughout Scotland is essential to the success of SQA's Gaelic Education Strategy. SQA will submit its Gaelic Language Plan for approval to Bòrd na Gàidhlig in November 2009, following consultation with key stakeholders.

2 SQA's corporate commitments, values and targets

In its statutory *Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans*, Bòrd na Gàidhlig notes that creating the right environment for the use of Gaelic in public life is one of the key components of language regeneration. The Bòrd has identified four core areas of service delivery that it wishes public bodies to address when preparing Gaelic Language Plans:

- Identity:** corporate identity
signage
- Communications:** reception
telephone
mail and e-mail
forms
public meetings
complaints procedures
- Publications:** public relations and media
printed material
websites
exhibitions
- Staffing:** training
language learning
recruitment
advertising

This section of the Plan will detail SQA's corporate commitments, values and targets in relation to the Bòrd's *Guidance on Development of Gaelic Language Plans*.

Identity

Rationale

The presence of Gaelic in the corporate identity and signs of a public authority greatly enhances the visibility of the language, increases its status and makes an important statement about how Gaelic is valued and how it is given recognition. Developing the use of Gaelic through signage can also enrich the vocabulary of Gaelic users, raise public awareness of the language and contribute to its development.

SQA recognises the importance of extending the visibility of Gaelic and increasing its status.

	Function	Planned Activity	Implemented by end of		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Identity	Letterheads & compliments slips	We will devise a new bilingual letterhead to be used in all sites.	✓		
	Business cards	We will move towards bilingual business cards across the business in all areas.		✓	
Signage	Signage	We will introduce bilingual signage in SQA receptions at all sites, buildings and car parks highlighting our Gaelic policy and the availability of staff to deal with enquiries in Gaelic.	✓		

Communications

Rationale

The use of Gaelic at the initial point of contact that members of the public have with a public authority increases the visible and audible presence of the language, and contributes to the sense that the use of Gaelic is possible and welcome. In addition to raising the profile of the language, it also creates opportunities for its practical use and encourages members of the public to use Gaelic in subsequent dealings with the public authority.

The use of Gaelic in interactions with the authority by mail, e-mail and by telephone is important in creating practical opportunities for the use of the language, and in contributing to the sense that its use is possible and welcome. The presence of Gaelic in a wide range of bilingual forms and Gaelic only forms can also greatly enhance the visibility and prestige of the language. The preparation of Gaelic versions of forms, applications and similar documents, can also assist in expanding the range of Gaelic terminology and the awareness of the Gaelic-speaking public of such terminology, thus helping the development of the language itself.

SQA recognises the importance of creating opportunities for the practical use of Gaelic in a wide range of everyday situations and is committed to increasing its level of provision in this area.

	Function	Planned Activity	Implemented by end of		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Communication	Forms	Our most commonly used forms will be available in bilingual format.	✓		
	Reception	We will provide bilingual information in reception highlighting the availability of bilingual services/staff.		✓	
	Call Centre	We will introduce Interactive Voice Recognition options to our telephone system, providing advice on availability of bilingual staff and resources to deal with enquiries.	✓		
	Events	We provide bilingual copies of event scripts where requested in advance.	✓		
	Mail and e-mail	We will provide bilingual signatures to all customer e-mails providing SQA's contact details.	✓		
All bulk e-mails will include a link to SQA's website with bilingual information on how to get information in Gaelic/communicate with SQA in Gaelic.		✓			

Publications

Rationale

The use of Gaelic in a range of printed material can assist Gaelic development in a variety of ways. It helps increase the visibility of the language, it enhances Gaelic's status by being used in high-profile publications, and it can help develop new, and enhance existing, terminology. The use of Gaelic in the media helps demonstrate a public authority's commitment to making important information available through the medium of Gaelic, as well as enhancing the visibility and status of the language. As more people access information about public authorities through their websites, making provision for the use of Gaelic can significantly enhance the status and visibility of the language.

SQA is committed to increasing the use of Gaelic in these areas where the subject matter is of most interest to the general public or relates specifically to Gaelic issues.

	Function	Planned Activity	Implemented by end of		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Publications	Advertising and exhibitions	We will re-design our range of stock adverts and develop bilingual and Gaelic corporate pop-up stands as appropriate.	✓		
	Public Relations and media	For specific Gaelic stories we will develop and issue bilingual press releases and arrange for a Gaelic speaker to be available for interviews.	✓		
	Printed materials	We will produce bilingual editions of: Scottish Qualifications booklet, Customer Charter leaflet, Your Exams booklet, Gaelic Orthographic Conventions booklet, the Annual Review and our top five general promotional leaflets.	✓		
	Websites	Addition of Gaelic link on homepage to page with a paragraph in Gaelic introducing community languages publication/website policy.	✓		
		Use of Gaelic and English web addresses to direct visitors to the site homepage.	✓		
		Use of Gaelic and English explanatory text on main feedback forms on website.	✓		
		Addition of Gaelic link on homepage to paragraph in Gaelic introducing community languages publication policy relating to secure materials.	✓		
		Use of Gaelic language headers on Gaelic language qualification pages.	✓		

Staffing

Rationale

To deliver services through the medium of Gaelic, it is necessary to develop the requisite job skills and language skills of staff. The provision of language learning for staff helps promote adult Gaelic learning and promotes Gaelic as a useful skill in the workplace. The identification of jobs in which Gaelic is a designated skill will contribute greatly to the status of the language and to identifying it as a positive skill to acquire. The appointment of a Qualifications Co-ordinator for Gaelic has been an important factor in the production of this Plan.

The use of Gaelic in advertising also helps recognise that Gaelic should be used in public life and that Gaelic speakers have an important role to play within a public authority. Whatever the level of Gaelic skills required it is important that authorities ensure that Gaelic is a genuine occupational requirement. Authorities should adopt and apply objective criteria to ensure appointments are made in each case on a fair and consistent basis, and reflect the identified skills needs of the post.

SQA recognises the importance of seeing Gaelic as an important job skill and of identifying situations in which its use is essential or desirable. SQA also recognises the importance of enabling staff to develop their Gaelic skills if they wish to do so.

	Function	Planned Activity	Implemented by end of		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Staffing	Awareness training	We will develop a guidance note for staff providing background information on Gaelic issues that are relevant to SQA and include this in new staff inductions.	✓		
	Language learning	We will provide language training to staff involved in the implementation of SQA's Gaelic Language Plan and in Gaelic development activities.	✓		
	Recruitment	We will include reference to SQA's Gaelic Language Plan in our recruitment documentation.	✓		
	Recruitment advertising	We will include reference to SQA's Gaelic Language Plan in our recruitment advertising documentation.	✓		

3 Gaelic education policy and implementation of the National Plan for Gaelic in SQA

Introduction

SQA is committed to ensuring that the National Gaelic Education Strategy contained in the National Plan for Gaelic is implemented. This section sets out how we will achieve that aim. SQA recognises that the various priority areas identified in the National Plan for Gaelic will be primarily implemented through our Gaelic Language Plan, but that opportunities will arise to promote and develop the language through existing policy measures.

SQA will examine current policy commitments to identify areas where Gaelic can be actively incorporated and the priorities of the National Plan for Gaelic initiated through additional methods. We see this development as corresponding to the normalisation principle which aims to include Gaelic as an everyday part of life in Scotland and we will be required to take account of Gaelic and our Gaelic Language Plan when drafting new policies and considering new strategies.

In addition to detailing the national priorities for Gaelic education, the National Plan for Gaelic identifies four interlinking aspects of language development that need to be addressed: **Acquisition**, **Status**, **Usage** and **Corpus**. Within these, it sets out a number of action areas (see Appendix 2). Our educational remit has a bearing on all four key aspects.

The aim of this chapter is therefore to illustrate how, specifically, SQA's **educational** aims for Gaelic will be an essential factor not just in addressing these aspects of language development but in ensuring the sustainability of both its own Gaelic Language Plan and the National Gaelic Education Strategy as laid out in the National Plan for Gaelic.

It will be necessary for SQA to remain an active member on Bòrd na Gàidhlig's National Gaelic Education Steering Group (NGESG) and working groups, to ensure the needs of the Gaelic sector are represented in all areas of Qualifications Development.

The national priorities for Gaelic education (which are set out in the National Gaelic Education Strategy, as laid out in the National Plan for Gaelic) that have greatest impact on SQA's function are:

Expansion of Gaelic-medium education (GME) at pre-school, primary and secondary levels

'Gaelic-medium education (GME) has been one of the most rapidly developing sectors of Scottish education since the first Gaelic-medium primary classes were opened in Sir John Maxwell Primary School in Glasgow and Central Primary in Inverness in 1985. The establishment of GME in both these schools heralded an unprecedented parental demand for similar provision across Scotland.'

Extract, p. 51, Annexe A, National Plan for Gaelic

SQA endeavours to support GME candidates indirectly at Primary level by a variety of means. At Secondary level SQA currently makes a number of Standard Grade examinations available through the medium of Gaelic: Geography, History, Mathematics and Modern Studies. New models of entry, translation, marking and certification for these courses are now being developed in conjunction with other similar projects in SQA.

There is an added commitment to extend the range of Gaelic-medium examinations within a clearly specified and practicable range of subjects, to be determined in consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig's national working group on Gaelic-medium Secondary Curriculum Design.

Action	SQA Directorate	Timescale
In line with recommendations received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig's national working group for the secondary curriculum, expand range of National Courses available in the medium of Gaelic within a clearly specified, practicable range of subjects.	Qualifications Development	1–3 years
Develop appropriate software to enable centres to register candidates directly for Gaelic-medium qualification options, and to investigate the development of certification options indicating that a course was undertaken in the medium of Gaelic.	Operations	1–5 years
Develop new operational practice to support and increase numbers of Translators, Markers and other examining team members to ensure standardisation and quality assurance.	Qualifications Development/ Operations	1–5 years
Ensure the needs of the Gaelic-medium sector are reflected with appropriate provision within the National Assessment Resource (NAR) for both primary and secondary sectors, as well as FE colleges.	Qualifications Development	ongoing
Ensure needs of Gaelic-medium sector are represented as agreed with Bòrd na Gàidhlig by forming a national key partner group for Curriculum for Excellence, developing qualifications to support the new curriculum.	Qualifications Development	1–3 years
Continue to investigate practice with examining authorities in Wales, Ireland and the rest of Europe.	Qualifications Development	ongoing

Expansion of Gaelic-learner education (GLE) in schools

'Gaelic-learner education in primary and secondary schools is also an important aspect of Gaelic education developments. There have been significant increases in the number of pupils learning Gaelic as a subject in secondary schools in recent years.'

Extract, Annexe A, National Plan for Gaelic

In addition to the above group of candidates, SQA also provides a suite of qualifications for Gàidhlig as a subject in its own right, for fluent speakers of the language. It is very important to maintain and build on current provision for learners and fluent speakers of Gaelic, as well as expanding Gaelic-medium provision. Please see Appendix 1 for more information on candidate numbers and statistics.

Action	SQA Directorate	Timescale
As part of Curriculum for Excellence continue Gaelic course provision (including stand-alone Units within the language stream) for both learners and fluent speakers. Liaise closely with Gaelic teaching profession in achieving this aim.	Qualifications Development	1–5 years
Mainstreaming of Gaelic subjects within other language development projects, eg Language for Vocational Purposes.	Qualifications Development	1–5 years
Develop succession planning strategy for Gaelic examination teams to take account of projected increase in candidate numbers.	Qualifications Development, Operations	1–5 years
SQA to actively promote the fluent speakers (Gàidhlig) qualifications to candidates who have a recognised level of fluency in the language.	Qualifications Development	ongoing
SQA to continue links with national support networks for Gaelic teachers such as CLAS.	Qualifications Development	ongoing

Expansion of Gaelic education for adults and in vocational situations

'Further and Higher Education institutions have a unique and wide-ranging contribution to make to the profile of Gaelic in Scotland'.

Extract, Annexe A, National Plan for Gaelic

SQA is committed to reviewing existing provision and addressing any gaps in the existing adult learners sector.

Action	SQA Directorate	Timescale
Review current Unit and Group Award provision across all SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) levels, including Higher National SVQ provision.	Qualifications Directorate	1–3 years
Based on review, identify gaps in current provision and after appropriate consultation, develop targeted range of qualifications provision, Units and Group Awards to support adult language learning.	Qualifications Directorate	1–3 years
Establish college-based advisory group to consider adult Gaelic (Learners) and vocationally related areas.	Qualifications Directorate	1–3 years

The four language development aspects of Acquisition, Usage, Status and Corpus are intrinsic to the work in each of the three preceding sections but, for clarity, we are devoting a separate section to the development and support given to the Gaelic Language Corpus by SQA, embodied by the SQA Publication *Gaelic Orthographic Conventions*.

Gaelic orthography

'In 1976, the Scottish Certificate of Education Examination Board (SCEEB), at the request of its Gaelic Panel, set up a Sub-committee of the Panel to investigate issues related to Gaelic orthography. Inconsistencies in the standard of written Gaelic had been noted by SCEEB examiners and it was felt that guidelines should be created to ensure that an authoritative set of orthographic conventions was adopted by teachers and examination candidates. It was also important that examiners, setters and markers would use the document when dealing with Gaelic examination papers and scripts. The findings of the Sub-committee were published in 1981 in *Gaelic Orthographic Conventions (GOC)*. This document has proved to be a valuable foundation for many areas of Gaelic development since then as Gaelic usage has expanded into different domains of public life in Scotland.'

Extract from introduction to Gaelic Orthographic Conventions

Action	SQA Directorate	Timescale
Publish <i>Gaelic Orthographic Conventions</i> in bilingual format.	Qualifications Development	1 year
Continue to liaise with Bòrd na Gàidhlig in relation to Gaelic terminology issues.	Qualifications Development	ongoing

The actions and commitments detailed in this chapter indicate the depth and extent of SQA's developing projects and action plans, showing how each area impacts both on the national priorities of Acquisition, Usage, Language and Corpus and on the National Education Strategy for Gaelic. SQA welcomes the opportunity to engage in national consultation, enabling the further development of these aims into realistic and achievable ambitions for the organisation's support for the Gaelic language.

4 Implementation and monitoring

Timescales

This Gaelic Language Plan will formally remain in force for a period of five years from this date or until a new plan has been put in place. Target dates and notes of immediate action are monitored on a monthly basis by the lead officers on the Corporate Planning Team and on the Education Strategy Team.

Management

Overall responsibility: Dr Janet Brown, Chief Executive

The Chief Executive will be responsible for ensuring that SQA delivers on the commitments set out in this Plan.

Administrative arrangements for implementing the Gaelic Language Plan

This Plan is the policy of SQA and has been endorsed both by our Senior Management Team and Council members.

Publicising the Plan

SQA's Gaelic Language Plan will be published bilingually on its website. In addition, we shall:

- ◆ issue a press release announcing the Plan
- ◆ make copies of the Plan available in our public offices and reception areas
- ◆ make the Plan known to employees via SQA's Intranet
- ◆ distribute copies of the Plan to our Non-departmental public bodies and agencies, agents and contractors
- ◆ distribute copies of the Plan to Gaelic organisations
- ◆ distribute copies of the Plan to other interested bodies
- ◆ make copies available on request

Individual staff members

SQA staff will be informed of their involvement in Gaelic Language Plan actions and activities through the work of the corporate and education planning working groups, consisting of representatives of each division in SQA, in order to ensure that the timescales are adhered to. Please see 'Contact details' section of the Plan on the final page of this chapter for details of lead officers.

Resourcing the Plan

SQA currently funds the activities outlined in this Plan, in respect of those services delivered, with support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Whilst it is envisaged that over the forthcoming two financial years SQA will move towards integrating its Gaelic activity

further, figures on costs of new software planning are not yet available due to the complex nature of the development work being undertaken.

Once research on systems development for new entry and certification models is completed, SQA will be able to establish what future funding bids will be required.

Monitoring implementation of the Plan

SQA will maintain its two separate internal working groups in order that actions can be monitored and updated regularly. Links to Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Education Manager and the national working groups are essential to the ongoing success of Gaelic language planning in SQA, given the importance of SQA's national education remit.

Implementation of the Plan will be included in our Operational and Business Plans and progress monitored through normal SQA governance channels.

Regular communication, either in the form of written updates or meetings with Bòrd na Gàidhlig will facilitate this process.

Services delivered by third parties

SQA will ensure that those who deliver services/goods on our behalf adhere to the principles contained in our Gaelic Language Plan, and are given access to the Plan either on their appointment to SQA or via SQA's Gaelic web pages.

Contact details

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Appendix 1: Qualifications and statistics

Gaelic (Learners)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Standard Grade	316	314	364	383	379
Access 3	2	3	3	3	4
Intermediate 1	11	15	13	24	69
Intermediate 2	46	68	49	30	30
Higher	139	130	154	119	120
Advanced Higher	28	7	17	23	17
Total	542	537	600	582	619

Gàidhlig

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Standard Grade	218	190	193	173	199
Access 3	0	0	0	0	0
Intermediate 1	0	1	0	0	13
Intermediate 2	11	15	19	11	16
Higher	91	102	124	97	99
Advanced Higher	11	23	21	23	26
Total	331	331	357	304	353

Gaelic-medium

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Geography	5	0	8	3	9
History	18	10	15	21	24
Total	23	10	23	24	33

It is important to note that the last table is not representative of the full number of Gaelic-medium candidates in Scotland. Rather, it shows the candidates who have elected to undertake the subject **examination** in the medium of Gaelic. Numbers are increasing as the candidature is maturing, and an increase in candidate numbers requesting examination provision is predicted.

FE provision

Figures are currently under review by SQA, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and a consortium of Scottish colleges with a view to developing national provision aimed at addressing gaps in Gaelic language learning and training opportunities in the FE sector.

Appendix 2: Priority action areas

Language acquisition

Increasing the number of Gaelic speakers by ensuring the language is transferred within families and by securing effective opportunities for learning Gaelic, through:

- ◆ increasing the use and transmission of Gaelic in the home
- ◆ increasing the number of children acquiring Gaelic in the home
- ◆ increasing the uptake and availability of Gaelic-medium education
- ◆ increasing the number of adult Gaelic learners progressing to fluency

SQA recognises that a sustainable future for Gaelic requires more people to learn the language and that attention requires to be focused on the home, education and adult learning as the key means of achieving this (see Chapter 3 for details).

Language usage

Encouraging greater use of Gaelic, providing opportunities to use the language, and promoting access to Gaelic forms of expression, through:

- ◆ increasing the use of Gaelic in communities
- ◆ increasing the use of Gaelic in tertiary education and places of work
- ◆ increasing the presence of Gaelic in the media
- ◆ increasing the promotion of Gaelic in the arts
- ◆ increasing the profile of Gaelic in the tourism, heritage and recreation sectors

SQA recognises that creating a sustainable future for Gaelic requires not only increasing the number of people able to speak the language, but increasing actual usage. We recognise the importance of enabling more people to use Gaelic as their preferred and normal mode of communication in an increasingly wide range of daily activities (see Chapter 3 for details).

Language status

Increasing the visibility and audibility of Gaelic, enhancing its recognition and creating a positive image for Gaelic in Scottish public life, through:

- ◆ increasing the number of bodies preparing Gaelic Language Plans
- ◆ increasing the profile and prestige of Gaelic
- ◆ increasing the visibility and recognition of Gaelic

SQA recognises that the status of a language is affected by its presence in the daily environment and the extent to which it is used, valued and perceived to be valued by those institutions which play an important role in our daily lives (see Chapter 3 for details).

Language corpus

Strengthening the relevance and consistency of Gaelic and promoting research into the language, through:

- ◆ increasing the relevance and consistency of the Gaelic language
- ◆ increasing the quality and accessibility of Gaelic translations
- ◆ increasing the availability of accurate research information

SQA recognises the need to strengthen the relevance and consistency of Gaelic, the importance of facilitating translation services and of promoting research into the language (see Chapter 3 for details).

Appendix 3: Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK



SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
12				DOCTORAL DEGREE	
11				INTEGRATED MASTERS DEGREE / MASTERS DEGREE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	SVQ5
10				HONOURS DEGREE GRADUATE DIPLOMA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	
9			PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD	BACHELORS / ORDINARY DEGREE GRADUATE DIPLOMA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	SVQ4
8		HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA		DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION	
7	ADVANCED HIGHER	HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE		CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION	SVQ3
6	HIGHER				
5	INTERMEDIATE 2 CREDIT STANDARD GRADE				SVQ2
4	INTERMEDIATE 1 GENERAL STANDARD GRADE	NATIONAL CERTIFICATE	NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARD		SVQ1
3	ACCESS 3 FOUNDATION STANDARD GRADE				
2	ACCESS 2				
1	ACCESS 1				

SQA GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2009

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CHAPTER	KEY TARGETS	COMMENTS
1. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SQA's role and function	
2. Core Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signage• Staff training• Promotion	
3. Policy implications for Gaelic and implementation of National Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gaelic Medium examinations• Gaelic language learning in FE• Certification in Gaelic	
4. Implementation and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timescale• Links with other organisations• Links with Bòrd na Gàidhlig	

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Name:	
Ethnic background:	
Are you involved in Gaelic education and/or learning or working with the language in any capacity?	
Are you involved in language education and/or learning or working with languages in any capacity?	

Please return completed form to:
Joanne Summers
Equality Project Officer
Finance and Governance
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building
58 Robertson Street
Glasgow G2 8DQ