



**National Qualifications  
Gàidhlig and Gaelic (Learners)**

**Course Assessment of Speaking (2007 onwards)**

**Intermediate 1  
Intermediate 2  
Higher  
Advanced Higher (Visiting Examiner)**

The following information must be used to assess candidates' performance in Speaking for the Course Assessment at the above levels.

Audio or video recording or some other record of candidate performance should be retained (for verification purposes).

**Important note:**

**Candidates may use up to five brief headings (of not more than eight words each) to assist them, purely as an aid to memory, during the assessment. These headings may be in either English or Gaelic, and will not require submission to SQA for Verification purposes. Use of a dictionary is not permitted.**

## Gàidhlig Intermediate 1

### Task

The Speaking assessment will assess the candidate's ability to discuss general issues and work undertaken throughout the course.

An oral interview will be conducted by the centre.

Candidates may use up to five headings (of not more than eight words each) to assist them, purely as an aid to memory, during the assessment. These headings may be in Gaelic or English, and do not require to be submitted to SQA for verification purposes.

### Marking instructions

Categories	Criteria	Marks out of 25
Very good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give comprehensive and detailed responses showing a high degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be clear evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary as well as evidence of control of a wide range of language structures and idiom.	21 – 25
Good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give quite comprehensive responses, showing clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary as well as evidence of control of a range of language structures and idiom.	17 – 20
Satisfactory	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give fairly comprehensive responses, showing a reasonable degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary as well as evidence of control of a narrow range of language structures and idiom.	13 – 16
Unsatisfactory	Difficulty in sustaining communication because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or inaccuracies appropriate to the task. Frequent clarification may require to be sought.	8 – 12
Poor	Communication seriously impeded because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or serious inaccuracies in language appropriate to the task. Frequent clarification will require to be sought.	4 – 7
Very poor	Little, or no, attempt is made at communication, even with prompting.	0 – 3

## Gàidhlig Intermediate 2

### Task

The Speaking assessment will assess the candidate's ability to discuss general issues and work undertaken throughout the course.

An oral interview will be conducted by the centre.

Candidates may use up to five headings (of not more than eight words each) to assist them, purely as an aid to memory, during the assessment. These headings may be in Gaelic or English, and do not require to be submitted to SQA for verification purposes.

### Marking instructions

Categories	Criteria	Marks out of 30
Very good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give convincing and detailed responses showing a high degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be clear evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary as well as evidence of control of a wide range of language structures and idiom.	25 – 30
Good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give comprehensive responses showing clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary as well as evidence of control of a range of language structures and idiom.	20 – 24
Satisfactory	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give fairly comprehensive responses showing a reasonable degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary as well as evidence of control of a fairly wide range of language structures and idiom.	15 – 19
Unsatisfactory	Difficulty in sustaining communication because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or inaccuracies appropriate to the task. May speak with a degree of hesitation but make some attempt to recover.	10 – 14
Poor	Communication seriously impeded because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or serious inaccuracies in language appropriate to the task.	5 – 9
Very poor	Little, or no, attempt is made at communication, even with prompting.	0 – 4

## Gàidhlig Higher

### Task

The Speaking assessment will assess the candidate's ability to discuss general issues and work undertaken throughout the course.

An oral interview will be conducted by the centre.

Candidates may use up to five headings (of not more than eight words each) to assist them, purely as an aid to memory, during the assessment. These headings may be in Gaelic or English, and do not require to be submitted to SQA for verification purposes.

### Marking instructions

Categories	Criteria	Marks out of 30
Very good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give convincing and detailed responses showing a high degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary and control of a wide range of language structures and idiom.	25 – 30
Good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give comprehensive responses showing clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary as well as evidence of control of a range of language structures and idiom.	20 – 24
Satisfactory	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give fairly comprehensive responses showing a reasonable degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. There should be evidence of appropriate choice of vocabulary as well as evidence of control of a fairly wide range of language structures and idiom.	15 – 19
Unsatisfactory	Communication is impeded because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or inaccuracies in language structure. May speak with a considerable degree of hesitation, but make some attempt to recover. Responses will be brief.	10 – 14
Poor	Communication is seriously impeded by very limited range of vocabulary and idiom and/or by serious errors in language structures. Responses will be very brief.	5 – 9
Very poor	Little, or no, attempt is made at communication, even with prompting.	0 – 4

## Gàidhlig Advanced Higher (Visiting Examiner)

### Task

Assessment of Speaking will be conducted by a Visiting Examiner in the presenting centre. The Speaking assessment focuses on the candidate's ability to maintain a discussion of general issues and work undertaken throughout the Course. It lasts up to fifteen minutes.

The total mark is **50**

### Marking instructions

Categories	Criteria	Marks out of 50
Very good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to maintain a discussion on general issues and work studied throughout the Course as well as exchanging ideas, contributing informed detail, information and personal opinions. Responses should be relevant and comprehensive, showing a high degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. There should also be evidence of control of a very good range of language structure and idiom.	42 – 50
Good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to maintain a discussion on general issues and work studied throughout the Course as well as exchanging ideas, contributing detail, information and personal opinions. Responses should be relevant and comprehensive, showing clarity, expression and accuracy. There should also be evidence of control of quite a wide range of language structure and idiom.	33 – 41
Satisfactory	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to maintain a discussion on general issues and work studied throughout the Course as well as exchanging ideas, contributing an adequate amount of detail, information and opinions. Responses should be reasonably relevant and comprehensive, showing a reasonable degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. There should also be evidence of control of a satisfactory of language structure and idiom.	25 – 32
Unsatisfactory	Communication is impeded because of limitation in the range of vocabulary and structures and/or inaccuracies in the language structure. May speak with a degree of hesitation, but make an attempt to recover. Responses will be fairly brief.	16 – 24
Poor	Communication is seriously impeded by limited range of vocabulary and idiom and/or by serious errors in language structure. Responses will be brief.	8 – 15
Very poor	Little, or no, attempt is made at communication, even with prompting.	0 – 7

## Gaelic (Learners) Intermediate 1

### Task

The Speaking assessment focuses on the candidate's ability to discuss general issues and includes an option to discuss a topic studied, which may include a theme or aspect of Gaelic culture. It will last for four to five minutes. Course themes are 'Careers', 'Food' and 'Holidays'.

An oral interview will be conducted by the centre.

The total mark is **60**

### Marking instructions

Categories	Criteria	Marks out of 60
Very good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give full responses which are presented with a good degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a basic conversation is naturally achieved with responses to most questions being appropriate, spontaneous and at a normal pace. The candidate requires minimum time to respond, is aware of and demonstrates a range of vocabulary. There is confidence and accuracy both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	50 – 60
Good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give responses which are presented with quite a good degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a basic conversation is achieved with responses to most questions being fairly appropriate, spontaneous and at a normal pace. The candidate responds to questions in a reasonable amount of time, is aware of and demonstrates a range of vocabulary. Hesitation and inaccuracy in grammar and pronunciation is minimal. There is reasonable confidence and accuracy both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	40 – 49
Satisfactory	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give responses which are presented with a reasonable degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a basic conversation is fulfilled with the pace of a conversation being mainly at a normal speed. Syntax is fairly accurate with mostly appropriate responses to questions showing evidence of a range of vocabulary. The candidate may require time to respond to a question but can reply without major assistance. The speaker may need to intervene on occasion to sustain communication. Hesitation and inaccuracy in grammar and pronunciation do not prevent overall comprehension. There may be limited confidence and flexibility both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	30 – 39
Unsatisfactory	The main purpose of a straightforward conversation is not readily fulfilled. Difficulty in achieving communication because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or serious inaccuracies in language. Pronunciation and/or intonation may require frequent clarification. Responses will be brief, perhaps of one word, and there will be difficulty with tenses.	20 – 29
Poor	The main purpose of a straightforward conversation is not	10 – 19

	fulfilled. Communication seriously impeded because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or serious inaccuracies in language. Pronunciation and/or intonation may require frequent clarification. There is little awareness of grammar.	
Very poor	Little, or no, attempt is made at communication, even with prompting.	0 – 9

## Gaelic (Learners) Intermediate 2

### Task

The Speaking assessment focuses on the candidate's ability to discuss general issues and includes an option to discuss a topic studied, which may include a theme or aspect of Gaelic culture. It will last for four to five minutes. Course themes are 'Holidays', 'Media' and 'Sport and Pastimes'.

An oral interview will be conducted by the centre.

The total mark is **60**

### Marking instructions

Categories	Criteria	Marks out of 60
Very good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give comprehensive responses which are presented with a high degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a mainly straightforward conversation is readily and naturally achieved with responses to most questions being appropriate, spontaneous and at a normal pace. The candidate requires minimum time to respond, is aware of and demonstrates a range of vocabulary. There is confidence and accuracy both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	50 – 60
Good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give quite comprehensive responses which are presented with clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a mainly straightforward conversation is fulfilled with the pace of the conversation being at a normal speed. Syntax is fairly accurate with mostly responses to questions showing evidence of a range of vocabulary. The candidate may require time to respond to a question. The speaker may need to intervene on occasion to sustain communication. Hesitation and inaccuracy in grammar and pronunciation is minimal. There is reasonable confidence and flexibility both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	40 – 49
Satisfactory	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give fairly comprehensive responses which are presented with a reasonable degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a mainly straightforward conversation is fulfilled with the pace of the conversation being mainly at a normal speed. Syntax is fairly accurate with mostly appropriate responses to questions showing evidence of a range of vocabulary. The candidate may require time to respond to a question but can reply with some assistance. The speaker may need to intervene on occasion to sustain communication. Hesitation and inaccuracy in grammar and pronunciation do not prevent overall comprehension. There may be limited confidence and flexibility both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	30 – 39
Unsatisfactory	The main purpose of an everyday conversation is not readily achieved. Difficulty in achieving communication because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or serious inaccuracies in	20 – 29

	language. May speak with considerable degree of hesitation, but makes some attempt to recover. Has difficulty in understanding what is said, even with help. Pronunciation and intonation sufficient to be understood although some points may not be immediately clear. Responses will be brief, perhaps of one word, and there will be difficulty with tenses.	
Poor	The main purpose of an everyday conversation is not achieved. Communication seriously impeded because of limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or serious inaccuracies in language. Has difficulty in understanding what is said. Pronunciation and/or intonation may be as such as would not be readily understood without clarification. There is little awareness of grammar.	10 – 19
Very poor	Little, or no, attempt is made at communication, even with prompting.	0 – 9

## Gaelic (Learners) Higher

### Task

The Speaking assessment focuses on general issues in the form of a conversation with another person for five to six minutes. There is an option to discuss issues studied in the Language and Individual Study Unit. Course themes are 'Careers', 'Food and Health' and 'Holidays'.

The total mark is **60**

### Marking instructions

Categories	Criteria	Marks out of 60
Very good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give comprehensive responses which are presented with a high degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a detailed conversation is readily and naturally achieved with responses to most questions being appropriate, spontaneous and at a normal pace. The candidate requires minimum time to offer opinions, explanations, justifications and arguments. The candidate is aware of and uses some complex and specialised vocabulary as well as demonstrating an ability to instigate and control conversation. There is confidence and accuracy both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	50 – 60
Good	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give quite comprehensive responses which are presented with clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a detailed conversation is fulfilled with the pace of the conversation being at a normal speed. The candidate uses common sentence structures fluently with appropriate responses to questions showing evidence of some complex and specialised vocabulary. The candidate may can express opinions, simple justifications and arguments within a reasonable amount of time. Hesitation and inaccuracy in grammar and pronunciation is minimal. There is reasonable confidence and flexibility both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	40 – 49
Satisfactory	The candidate will demonstrate an ability to give fairly comprehensive responses which are presented with a reasonable degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a detailed conversation is fulfilled with the pace of the conversation being mostly at a normal speed. The candidate uses common sentence structures fluently with mostly appropriate responses to questions showing some evidence of specialised vocabulary. The candidate may require time to respond to a question but can express opinions, simple justifications and arguments. The speaker may need to intervene on occasion to sustain communication. Hesitation and inaccuracy in grammar and pronunciation do not prevent overall comprehension. There may be only limited confidence and flexibility both in rehearsed and unrehearsed situations.	30 – 39
Unsatisfactory	The purpose of a detailed conversation is not readily fulfilled. Difficulty in achieving communication because of a limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or serious inaccuracies in language. Understands most of what is said clearly and slowly. May speak with a	20 – 29

	considerable degree of hesitation, but make some attempt to recover. Pronunciation and intonation sufficient to be generally understood. Responses will be brief, perhaps of one word, and there will be difficulty with tenses.	
Poor	Communication seriously impeded by inadequate vocabulary and structures and/or serious errors in language. Frequently has difficulty in understanding what is said, even with help. There may be occasional interference from the candidate's first/main language. Pronunciation and intonation may be such as to require clarification. There is little awareness of grammar.	10 – 19
Very poor	Little, or no, attempt is made at communication, even with prompting.	0 – 9

## Gaelic (Learners) Advanced Higher (Visiting Examiner)

### Task

Assessment of Speaking will be conducted by a Visiting Examiner in the presenting centre. The Speaking assessment focuses on the candidate's ability to maintain a discussion on general issues and a cultural issue or theme studied in the Language and Culture Unit. It will last for up to ten minutes. Course themes are 'Careers', 'Food and Health' and 'Media'.

The total mark is **80**

### Marking instructions

Categories	Criteria	Marks out of 80
Very good	The candidate demonstrates an ability to give comprehensive and extended responses which are presented with a high degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a detailed conversation is readily and naturally achieved with responses to most questions being appropriate, spontaneous and at a normal pace. The candidate requires minimum time to offer opinions, explanations and justifications. The candidate is aware of and uses complex and specialised vocabulary. There is confidence and accuracy in discussing both theme-related and general issues.	67 – 80
Good	The candidate demonstrates an ability to give extended responses which are presented with a clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a detailed conversation is fulfilled with the pace of the conversation being at a normal speed and using common sentence structures fluently. Responses to questions are appropriate, accurate and show some evidence of specialised vocabulary. The candidate is able to respond to a question in a reasonable amount of time and can express opinions, explanations and some justifications. Hesitation and inaccuracy in grammar and pronunciation is minimal. There is a reasonable degree of confidence and flexibility in discussing both theme-related and general issues.	53 – 66
Satisfactory	The candidate demonstrates an ability to give satisfactory responses which are presented with a reasonable degree of clarity, expression and accuracy. The purpose of a detailed conversation is fulfilled with the pace of the conversation being mostly at a normal speed and mainly using common sentence structures fluently. Responses to questions are mostly appropriate, accurate and show some evidence of specialised vocabulary. The candidate may require time to respond to a question but can express a satisfactory range of opinions, explanations and justifications. The speaker may need to intervene on occasion to sustain communication. Hesitation and inaccuracy in grammar and pronunciation do not prevent overall comprehension. There is a degree of confidence and flexibility in discussing both theme-related and general issues.	40 – 52
Unsatisfactory	The purpose of an extended conversation is not readily fulfilled. Difficulty in achieving communication because of a limited range of vocabulary and structures and/or inaccuracies in language. Understands most of what is said clearly and slowly. May speak with	26 – 39

	a degree of hesitation, but make some attempt to recover. Pronunciation and intonation sufficient to be generally understood. Responses will be brief and there may be difficulty with grammar.	
Poor	The purpose of an extended conversation is not fulfilled. Communication seriously impeded by inadequate vocabulary and structures and/or serious errors in language. Difficulty in understanding what is said, even with help. There may be occasional interference from the candidate's first/main language. Pronunciation and intonation may be such as to require clarification. Awareness of grammar is very limited.	13 – 25
Very poor	Little, or no, attempt is made at communication, even with prompting.	0 – 12