



NQ Verification 2014–15

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Gaelic (Learners)
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2015

National Courses/Units verified:

Gaelic (Learners) National 5/Higher Course assessment

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Good practice

- ◆ The vast majority of assessors used the SQA National 5/Higher Course Assessment Task effectively.
- ◆ Interlocutors were encouraging and supportive of their candidates during the assessment.
- ◆ Although not essential, some candidates asked questions of the interlocutor, which made for spontaneous and interactive conversations.
- ◆ The standard of candidates' performance was particularly high at Higher level.

Development points

- ◆ Centres are reminded that candidates may refer to up to five headings of no more than eight words each as prompts during the presentation and no notes should be used for the conversation.
- ◆ Centres should adhere to the guidance regarding timings for the National 5 presentation (approximately 1–2 minutes) and the conversation (approximately 4–5 minutes) in the 'Assessment Overview of the National 5 General Assessment Information' document.
- ◆ Interlocutors are encouraged to ask more open-ended questions to elicit more detailed candidate responses.

Assessment judgements

Good practice

- ◆ The majority of centres used the marking instructions in the SQA National 5/ Higher Course Assessment task effectively.
- ◆ The majority of assessment judgements were in line with national standards.
- ◆ Some centres provided commentaries explaining their judgements — this is especially helpful when candidates are on the borderline between pegged marks.
- ◆ Some assessors included details of non-verbal communication in their comments, eg hand gestures and eye contact.

Development points

- ◆ Some centres were lenient in their mark allocation for the natural element at National 5.
- ◆ Centres are reminded that, at National 5 level, candidates should be using detailed spoken language.
- ◆ Centres should ensure that they make reference to the whole of the [Modern Languages Performance: talking General assessment information](#) document, rather than using the General Marking Instructions in isolation.

03

Section 3: General comments

Many candidates displayed an impressive range of vocabulary and high levels of confidence, particularly at Higher level.

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of basic pronunciation, especially lenition, in commonly used words and phrases such as ‘glè dhoirbh’ and ‘as fhearr leam’.

When completing the Verification Sample Form, candidates should be listed in alphabetical order, with National 5 candidates first, followed by Higher candidates.