

November 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinator
All Gaelic/Gàidhlig Departments

| Action by Recipient | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Response required |
| ✓ | Note and pass on |
| | None — update/information only |

Contact: Margaret Allan at Glasgow
Direct line: 0845 213 5927
E-mail: margaret.allan@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications update

The content of this letter should be passed on to members of staff responsible for Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig subjects.

Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig update

We would like to bring the following matters to your attention.

1. External Assessment reports and Internal Assessment reports

The 2010 External and Internal Assessment Reports will be available shortly on the SQA website. These reports include advice from Principal Assessors and Senior Verifiers on performance and future preparation of candidates which centres will find useful for departmental planning and discussion.

2. Guidance on the Allocation of Candidates

Centres should note SQA Guidelines for candidate entry to Gaelic / Gàidhlig Courses. These are available at the following link: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/7346.html>

3. Reminder of language use in Gàidhlig papers

Candidates should be reminded to answer all Gàidhlig papers (i.e. all non Gaelic (Learners) papers) in Gàidhlig, and **not** in English.

4. Standard Grade Writing, Gaelic (Learners)

Centres are reminded of the recent change to the Standard Grade Gaelic (Learners) Optional Writing paper from 2010: candidates now answer **one** Writing question, rather than two. A specimen Writing paper is available on the SQA website at the following link: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/40226.html>

10 March 2011

5. AH Speaking Assessments

Speaking assessments at AH will be recorded from this academic year, 2010-11. All candidates' Speaking Tests will be recorded onto cassette or CD. Centres should ensure that the accommodation used for the conduct of the tests provides a suitable environment for cassette/CD recording and that appropriate recording equipment is available in the examination room. Please note that, if recording a performance directly onto CD, you must ensure that only a stand-alone 'real time' recorder is used. The use of recording to and from digital files/MP3/podcast etc, is **not** permitted. It is highly desirable that an external microphone is used. Audio cassette tapes/CDs will be provided by the Visiting Examiner.

6. Availability of past question papers on SQA's website

Recent past papers are available to download from SQA's website. Papers and MP3 files to accompany Listening papers are available via a link on accessing the website. Past Papers and Marking Instructions older than three years are available using our Past Paper and Marking Instruction Service – please contact mycentre@sqa.org.uk for further information.

7. Special Assessment Arrangements

Centres are reminded that where candidates sitting Listening examinations have been allocated extra time under special arrangements, the Operator's Instructions will change every year. The correct instructions for the current year's papers are included on the Assessment Arrangements section of SQA's **secure** website.

8. Scottish Languages Baccalaureate

The first year of SQA's Baccalaureate award has been very successful, with some universities now permitting entry to second year if the award has been obtained. Candidates may use Gaelic or Gàidhlig as part of their Baccalaureate. A link is available from the NQ section of SQA's website, where centres can access up-to-date information, materials and video case studies. Please contact Lorna Grant, the Baccalaureate Development Manager at lorna.grant@sqa.org.uk for further information and forthcoming support events.

9. Understanding Standards Support Materials

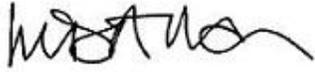
Materials to support Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig candidates are now available on the Understanding Standards website: www.understandingstandards.org.uk. No log in is required; materials can be accessed via the drop-down subject menu on the right-hand side.

10. Launch of SQA Gaelic Language Plan and official Past Papers

SQA's Gaelic Language Plan and official Past Papers, developed in conjunction with SQA, Stòrlann and Bright Red Publishing in Gaelic/Gàidhlig, will be launched on the 1st December at Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

10 March 2011

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Allan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Margaret Allan
Qualifications Manager