

11 January 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinator

**For the attention of the member of staff  
responsible for the delivery of Gaelic (Learners)**

Action by Recipient
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response required
<input type="checkbox"/> Note and pass on
<input type="checkbox"/> None — update/information only

Contact Name: Marilyn Waters at Glasgow  
Direct Line: 0141-242 2195  
E-mail: [marilyn.waters@sqa.org.uk](mailto:marilyn.waters@sqa.org.uk)

Dear Colleague,

### **National Qualification Review**

#### **Gaelic (Learners) Higher**

Further to discussions at the recent launch event for revised National Qualifications in Gaelic (Learners), a number of amendments have been made to the Course assessment specification and specimen question paper.

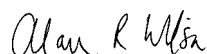
These amendments include changes to the rubric, and clarification on timings of the component sections of the question paper.

Regarding the Course assessment of writing, please find attached a document containing **three** separate options. I would be very grateful if you could take some time to consider each of these three options and complete the attached form indicating which one of the three you think would be most appropriate.

Please return the completed form to Gemma Bottomley ([gemma.bottomley@sqa.org.uk](mailto:gemma.bottomley@sqa.org.uk)) at the freepost address given on the form by no later than 20 January 2006. Alternatively you may wish to fax your reply to **0141-242 2278**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Qualifications Manager

**Gaelic (Learners) Higher**

**Course Assessment of Writing**

**Please indicate which option is your preferred one by ticking the appropriate box.**

**Option 1**

**Option 2**

**Option 3**

**Please use the box below for any comments you might wish to make:**

Centre: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gemma Bottomley  
Scottish Qualifications Authority  
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Hanover House  
24 Douglas Street  
Glasgow  
G2 7NQ  
Fax: 0141-242 2278**

**Following this page are examples of specimen question formats for Writing. All questions are drawn from the three compulsory Writing themes of Careers, Food and Health, and Holidays. The advantages and disadvantages of each are:**

### **1. Writing Specimen Question Option 1 — open, unsupported**

Advantages

- ◆ Provides maximum flexibility for students
- ◆ Students free to treat topic as they wish

Disadvantages

- ◆ Less support provided than for specimen question type 2, but students will have been prepared through class work and NABs for the topic areas

### **2. Writing Specimen Question Option 2 — supported**

Advantages

- ◆ Provides supported writing options for students
- ◆ Each question is accompanied by a set of bullet points to suggest a possible outline for the writing task

Disadvantages

- ◆ Whilst support may be helpful for many, it may also restrict the creative bent of others if they feel they are being influenced to include suggested points
- ◆ There is a considerable amount of additional reading for candidates

### **3. Writing Specimen Question Option 3 — personal, discursive, informational/transactional types of writing specified**

Advantages

- ◆ Students know they will be able to choose a particular writing form
  - personal writing
  - discursive writing
  - informational/transactional writing

Disadvantages

- ◆ Possibly least flexible format for student
- ◆ Whilst other formats will also require students to keep to the question topic, this format requires students to adopt a particular type of writing. There could be greater opportunity for losing marks

Remember that the questions are specimens only. In the 2007 question paper, the setter will have the advantage of knowing exactly what the contents of the new and updated resources from LTS will be, as well as the contents of the NABs. Therefore, the setter will be in a position to ensure that question paper content will reflect teaching resources and NABs.

## Writing Specimen Questions — Option 1

### SECTION B (ii)

Writing: 40 marks

Approximate / recommended time: 40 minutes

Write answers in the separate answer booklet provided for Section B (ii) Writing and Section B (iii) Literature.

Write in Gaelic about ONE of the following topics:

#### Theme 1: Obair / Careers

1. Write about a work experience placement (real or simulated) you have been on.
2. You have recently interviewed someone who uses Gaelic in their work and asked them about the nature of their work. Write a transcript of the interview.
3. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having a job after school and/or on Saturdays.

#### Theme 2: Biadh agus Slàinte / Food and Health

1. There is a great emphasis on healthy eating in society today. Write about the healthiness of your diet and how you keep it healthy.
2. You have studied a Unit on Food and Health this year in your Gaelic Course. Discuss one issue you covered.
3. Smoking in public places will soon be against the law. Write about how this will affect society.

#### Theme 3: Saor-laithean / Holidays

1. Describe your best or worst holiday experience, or both.
2. Discuss the benefits of going on holiday within Scotland.
3. Write about an interesting place you visited on holiday.

## Writing Specimen Questions — Option 2

### SECTION B (ii)

Writing: 40 marks

Approximate / recommended time: 40 minutes

Write answers in the separate answer booklet provided for Section B (ii) Writing and Section B (iii) Literature.

Write in Gaelic about ONE of the following topics:

#### Theme 1: Obair / Careers

1. **Write a personal diary about a work experience placement (real or simulated) you have been on.**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ Specific details about your placement: when, where and what your placement was and for how long
- ◆ Your feeling about your first day
- ◆ The types of activities you were involved in
- ◆ Say whether you enjoyed the placement or not
- ◆ Say what you learned from it

2. **You have recently interviewed someone who uses Gaelic in their work and asked them about the nature of their work. Write a transcript of the interview.**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ Nature of their occupation
- ◆ Reasons for choosing this occupation
- ◆ What qualifications and/or skills are needed for this occupation
- ◆ If they are happy in their job and why

3. **Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having a job after school and/or on Saturdays.**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ Describe what jobs are available in your own locality
- ◆ Compare the advantages and disadvantages of working after school
- ◆ Explain why you decided to have, or not have, a job after school

## **Theme 2: Biadh agus Slàinte / Food and Health**

### **1. There is a great emphasis on healthy eating in Scotland today. How healthy is your diet?**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ An examination of the 'healthiness' of your eating choices
- ◆ What your own views are on healthy eating
- ◆ A brief comment on Scotland's problems regarding a healthy diet
- ◆ A brief comment on possible solutions to Scotland's eating problems

### **2. You have studied a Unit on Food and Health this year in your Gaelic Course. Discuss one of the issues you covered.**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ Explain the issue you have chosen to write about
- ◆ Say what you learned from studying the topic
- ◆ Say what is being done or needs to be done to improve/alter the situation

### **3. Should people be allowed to smoke in public places?**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ Explain briefly the current situation in Scotland regarding smoking in public places
- ◆ Explain why you adopt the viewpoint you do
- ◆ Say why you reject the point of view opposite to your own

## **Theme 3: Saor-laithean / Holidays**

### **1. Write about your best or worst holiday experience, or both.**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ Where you went and what kind of holiday it was (family, friends, school trip)
- ◆ What the holiday experience was
- ◆ What your thoughts and feelings were
- ◆ Why it was the best or worst experience

### **2. Do you have to go abroad to have a good holiday?**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ State your own opinion
- ◆ Explain why you are of this opinion
- ◆ Give an example or examples to back up your opinion
- ◆ State why the opposite view is not acceptable to you

**3. Write a letter to a friend describing a holiday you have been on.**

You may wish to include some of the following points in your writing but they are not compulsory:

- ◆ State where and when it took place
- ◆ Say who else was with you on the holiday
- ◆ Say why you enjoyed it
- ◆ Describe a memorable part of it

## Writing Specimen Questions — Option 3

### SECTION B (ii): Writing

Writing: 40 marks

Approximate / recommended time: 40 minutes

Write answers in the separate answer booklet provided for Section B (ii) Writing and Section B (iii) Literature.

Write in Gaelic about ONE of the following topics:

#### Theme 1: Obair / Careers

##### 1. Personal Writing

Write a personal diary about a work experience placement you have been on.

##### 2. Discursive Writing

You have recently interviewed someone who uses Gaelic in their work. Write a transcript of your interview.

##### 3. Informational/Transactional

Write about the kind of jobs students do after school and/or on Saturdays.

#### Theme 2: Biadh agus Slàinte / Food and Health

##### 1. Personal Writing

There is a great emphasis on healthy eating in Scotland today. How healthy is your diet and why?

##### 2. Discursive Writing

Should people be allowed to smoke in public places?

##### 3. Informational/Transactional

People keep fit in different ways. What facilities are available in your locality?

#### Theme 3: Saor-laithean / Holidays

##### 1. Personal Writing

Write about your best or worst holiday experience, or both.

##### 2. Discursive Writing

Do you have to go abroad to have a good holiday?

##### 3. Informational/Transactional

Describe how you planned a holiday trip.