



**National Qualifications 2014  
Internal Assessment Report  
Gàidhlig and Gaelic (Learners)**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

# National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

Intermediate 2 Gaelic (Learners) — Assessment of Speaking  
Higher Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig — Assessment of Speaking

## General comments

The verifier was pleased to note that most centres have a clear understanding of the marking criteria set out in the document *Gaelic and Gàidhlig Course Assessment of Speaking 2007 Onwards*. Of the centres verified, two did not comply with the marking criteria, rendering the assessments 'Not Accepted'. The remainder of centres' assessments were concordant with the verifier's judgements.

On the whole, assessors are to be praised for their work in preparing candidates for the assessment of speaking. Interlocutors were sympathetic and covered a good range of topics.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Most centres are familiar with the Course Arrangements and specifically, the *Course Assessment of Speaking 2007 Onwards* document. It is important that centres' assessment judgements are made in line with the categories and marking criteria in this document.

## Evidence Requirements

All centres submitted the correct recorded evidence. In all cases, recordings on cassette/CD were of good quality and documentation was completed accurately.

## Administration of assessments

Almost all centres administered the speaking assessments in accordance with the existing guidelines and candidates were given opportunities to sustain natural sounding conversation on a variety of topics.

Centres are advised to adhere to the time allocation for tasks as detailed in the marking criteria. Some assessments fell short of the required time, and others unnecessarily prolonged to the detriment of weaker candidates.

## Areas of good practice

The verifier was pleased to note the good relationships between interlocutors and candidates in almost all centres.

Interlocutors conducted assessments in a patient and encouraging manner, giving candidates the opportunity to cover a good range of topics.

Generally, interlocutors' questions were suitably demanding at both levels and were designed to get the best out of candidates. Centres should be commended for this.

In many instances candidates displayed evidence of sustained natural and spontaneous conversation, and were clearly engaged in the range topics discussed.

There were some very strong performances, particularly in learners, where candidates performed with a high degree of fluency that would normally be expected from fluent speakers.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

There was some evidence of candidates being over-prepared with a resultant lack of spontaneity. Candidates were able to speak with a good degree of fluency (appropriate to the level presented for) but, in some instances, struggled to answer more straightforward, unrehearsed questions. There should be a balance of rehearsed and unrehearsed questions and candidates should be able to answer both.

Interlocutors should try to avoid expanding on/repeating comments on the candidates' responses, as this can lead to the assessments going beyond the recommended stated time.

Interlocutors are advised to avoid, in the main, closed questions or questions that elicit a list of factual information (such as a list of school subjects). Where possible, interlocutors should aim to ask questions that allow candidates scope to express and justify opinions. This type of questioning will lend more to spontaneity and interactive discussion.

Centres should be fully familiar with the different performance criteria expected between Intermediate 2 and Higher candidates in both Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig.