



**National Qualifications 2015  
Internal Assessment Report  
Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig**

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

# National Courses

Titles/levels of National Courses verified:

Higher Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig — Assessment of Speaking

## General comments

In general, the centres verified have shown a clear understanding of the requirements of the conduct and content of the speaking assessment. Of the centres verified, only one centre was 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 encouraging during the assessment.

## Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Most assessors proved themselves to be familiar with the Course Arrangements, as well as the Unit assessment, documentation.

## Evidence Requirements

Centres are clearly aware of the requirements to submit CDs or cassette recordings of candidate performance. However, one centre failed to send in the correct documentation and was not appropriately completed.

## Administration of assessments

Many assessments were within tolerance and accepted accordingly. However, the quality of some recordings could be improved.

There was evidence of good practice by candidates and interlocutors. Most interlocutors conducted the assessments in a context which encouraged real interaction and communication between themselves and their candidates. There remain a few interlocutors who tend to ask the same questions of all of the centre's candidates with the candidate responses taking the form of rehearsed mini-monologues.

## Areas of good practice

Most interlocutors showed good skills; many were patient and sympathetic and ready to assist with prompting when necessary — this, however, was commendably kept to a minimum, enabling candidates to perform well.

Generally, interlocutor questions were suitably demanding at all levels, and a number of interlocutors succeeded in getting the best out of candidates, with

evidence of good relationship between interlocutors and candidates. Many tests were professionally conducted.

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 for Gaelic (Learners) where candidates performed with a high degree of fluency that would surpass fluent speakers.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

There was evidence of candidates being over-prepared with a resultant lack of spontaneity. Candidates were able to speak with a good degree of fluency 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 types.

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

Some centres should engage in more interactive discussion between interlocutors and candidates, leading to more authentic, spontaneous conversation as required by the task.

Some recordings were unclear at times, and should be conducted carefully in order to minimise interference from any other sources/candidates.

The interlocutor should give candidates time to answer a question if they do not respond immediately. Also, the interlocutor should avoid repeating candidates' answers.

Interlocutors should not spend too much time giving information in the course of assessments and should restrict themselves to asking questions.