

Our ref: MMW

18 November 2002

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	None – update/information only

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Dear Colleague

**National Qualifications
Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig**

The contents of this circular should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Gaelic subjects.

1 *Access 3, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher*

The SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk) is now the main channel for SQA information.

The following material is available from the Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig subject page of the website:

- ◆ Arrangements (giving details of syllabus and assessment requirements)
- ◆ Specimen question papers and marking instructions
- ◆ Reports on 2002 external assessment and moderation
- ◆ National Qualification Review reports on Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig

The following material is also available on the website:

- ◆ 2003 examination timetable
- ◆ Operational guide (giving details of submission dates and other procedural information)
- ◆ Catalogue of National Qualifications 2002/2003 – Supplementary Information (confirming code numbers and other details)

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2 *Gàidhlig Higher and Advanced Higher Reports*

Centres are reminded that the recommended lengths for the above Reports have been extended from 1,000 to 1,500 words at Higher and from 1,500 to 2,000 words at Advanced Higher.

3 *Gaelic (Learners) Advanced Higher Listening (Language Study 1, Outcome 1)*

Centres are reminded that the number of assessments required for this unit has been reduced from **two** to **one**. This assessment will retain its dual-purpose status, with candidates being awarded a mark out of **45** which should be submitted to SQA for the purposes of the Course Assessment.

4 *Standard Grade Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig - Speaking Assessment Marks*

Centres are reminded that the submission date for Standard Grade Speaking marks has been moved back to 30 April, in line with procedures for other subject areas.

5 *Gaelic Orthographic Conventions*

It is hoped to issue the updated version of the above publication in 2003. The Scottish Executive is thanked for its support and centres are thanked for their ongoing contribution to the updating process.

6 *Listening Tests in and after 2003*

It is intended to supply Listening materials for external examinations on CD instead of audio-tape. This should provide reliable sound quality as well as being less bulky for centres to store over time. If you anticipate that this move will cause any difficulty in your centres, please contact Clare Hickson in SQA's Dalkeith office – tel 0131 561 6815.

7 *Publications*

Enquiries concerning copies of NAB materials and other publications should be directed to the publication staff, in the first instance – tel 0141 242 2168.

8 *Provision of examinations in the medium of Gaelic*

SQA will be making the following examinations available in the medium of Gaelic this session: Standard Grade Geography, Standard Grade History and Standard Grade Mathematics.

These examinations can be made available in the medium of Gaelic — subject to demand — and this is the first year that there has been demand for examinations in all three subject areas. This indicates potential future increases in candidate numbers in line with increases in candidate entries elsewhere in the Gaelic subject areas.

9 *Temporary staffing changes at SQA*

Victoria Kewney will be providing maternity cover in this subject area for a six-month period from December 2002 until May 2003.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Waters', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marilyn M Waters
Lead Officer for Gaelic