

Moderation Feedback - Central

Assessment Panel:

Gaelic

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
included in this report**

**Gaelic (Learners)
Intermediate 1, 2 and Higher
Gàidhlig Intermediate 2, Higher and
Advanced Higher**

Central Moderation

General comments on central moderation activity

The Moderation Event was successful. Moderators had little difficulty in arriving at a consensus in respect of the majority of candidates. However, there was a lot of work crammed into the two days, resulting in an evening session on the second day. This was partly due to the fact that all candidates from some centres had to be considered in order to fulfil SQA guidelines. The results from half the centres could not be accepted. The event had been well organised by SQA, and the availability of SQA personnel was of considerable assistance.

Specific issues identified

The performance of candidates varied widely. This was partly due to the ways in which the tests had been conducted, in that questions appropriate to the criteria were not posed. The notion of conversation with the interviewer did not come across and in some instances, SQA criteria had not been met. Recordings from some centres did not consist of continuous discussion, and it was evident that in some cases the recording machines were being stopped to allow for “thinking time”.

Centres should endeavour to use new tapes, as poor quality recordings do not do justice to candidates. Also, one tape should be submitted for each candidate, rather than have a number of candidates’ work on one tape.

Moderators felt that a number of centres were over-generous with the marks awarded to candidates, and in some instances centre marks differed widely, from what Moderators considered to be reasonable having listened to candidates on tape.

Feedback to centres

Performances were mixed. However, while many centres appeared to err by being generous, there were some very good performances. In some instances, even where a recommendation to alter marks was made, it was evident that the guidelines had been adhered to during the conduct of tests.

Centres have been sent the results of the Moderation Exercise, but should also be made aware of the observations and recommendations noted elsewhere in this report.