



Friday 25 February 2011

## **SQA LAUNCHES GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN**

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has launched its Gaelic Language Plan today (Friday 25 February 2011).

Gaelic Language Plans are a key component of the strategy intended to deliver the Scottish Government's National Plan for Gaelic.

These are designed to secure the status of the language envisioned by the Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The Gaelic Language Act of 2005 and the National Plan for Gaelic are of fundamental importance in enabling SQA and its partner organisations to plan successfully for a sustainable future for the language, not just in Scotland but on the international stage.

The 2005 Act requires public bodies to bring the preparation of its Gaelic Language Plan to the attention of all interested parties. SQA consulted publicly on the draft of its plan for a period of eight weeks in 2009 and took into account representations made to it during the consultation process.

SQA Chief Executive, Dr Janet Brown said:

"I am very pleased to announce the launch of our Gaelic Language Plan. The plan seeks to support and recognise Gaelic speakers and learners of all ages as they positively engage with Scotland's education and qualifications system. The success of our plan depends very much on continuing and enhancing the strong partnership between SQA and our delivering centres and on the close, positive collaboration with our partner agencies.

"In particular, our plan ensures that SQA will continue to play an integral part in supporting Bòrd na Gàidhlig's key national priorities of expanding Gaelic-medium education, Gaelic learner education in schools and Gaelic education for adults".

SQA recognises the importance of supporting the aspirations and objectives included in the National Plan for Gaelic and the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. A key part of this is the development of its Gaelic Education Strategy.

SQA is working across the four national aims for Gaelic which are Language Acquisition, Usage, Status and Corpus.

As well as offering qualifications in Gaelic to learners and fluent speakers, SQA is committed to a planned expansion of subjects and levels as Gaelic Medium candidate numbers increase.

Currently, SQA offers a number of examinations in the medium of Gaelic; Standard Grade Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Studies and Higher Mathematics.

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The SQA's Gaelic Language Plan can be accessed via [www.sqa.org.uk/gaelic](http://www.sqa.org.uk/gaelic) and hard copies can be requested from our customer contact centre on [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk), 0845 279 1000.

- ENDS -

### Supporting Quotes

#### **Bilingual Statement from Bòrd na Gàidhlig Chief Executive John Angus MacKay**

SQA Plana na Gàidhlig

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilt' air an naidheachd gu bheil SQA a-nis a-measg nam buidhnean mòra poblach a tha air an taic a chur ri rùintean a' Bhùird a thaobh na Gàidhlig agus amasan coimhearsnachdan na Gàidhlig. Tha am Bòrd fìor thoilichte gu bheil an SQA cuideachd air an aon ràmh a thaobh a bhith a' cruthachadh ginealach ùr dhan Ghàidhlig le bhith a' cur an sàs Plana Gàidhlig gu foirmeil.

Tha inbhe agus àite a tha deatamach aig an SQA ann a bhith a' leasachadh agus a' toirt air adhart teisteanais agus na bunstructaran sgilean a tha a dhìth air saoghal malairt, gnìomhachas agus daoine fa-leth air feadh na dùthcha. Bidh a' phàirt a th'aig SQA, an co-bhuinn ri Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus buidhnean eile a tha a' cuartachadh anns an aon shaoghal, air leth cudromach ann a bhith a co-eagrachadh agus a' sireadh ar cinn-uidhe, gu h-àraidh an co-cheangal ri leasachadh agus adhartas leis a' Churraicealam son Sàr-Mhaitheis.

Mar bhuidhinn nàiseanta le uallach a bhith a' leasachadh, measadh, a' feuchainn agus a' dearbhadh theisteanais, tha e na phrìomh bhunait-obrach aig SQA ìrean foghlaim a chothromachadh agus a ghlèidheil. Tha e cudromach dhan Bhòrd gu bheil taic an SQA againn agus sinn a' feuchainn ri barrachd òigridh le teisteanas an Gàidhlig a thoirt a steach dhan t-siostam obrach. Bidh an taic sin a nis gu math follaiseach dhan mhòr-shluagh tro obair a bhios an SQA a' cur air adhart bho latha gu latha agus mar a bhios iad a' sìor chur na Gàidhlig gu feum nan oibrichean.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the addition of SQA to the portfolio of major organisations which have aligned themselves to the Bòrd's own aspirations and those of the Gaelic-speaking community. The Bòrd is delighted that SQA shares our ambition to grow a new generation of Gaelic speakers and welcomes its commitment to the language through its new Gaelic Plan.

SQA has a vital role to play in developing appropriate qualifications and skills structures which are needed to deliver the needs of business, industry and individuals throughout the country. SQA's role, particularly now in relation to the Curriculum for Excellence, in partnership with the Scottish Government and other stakeholder organisations, will be hugely significant in driving forward and delivering our ambitions for Gaelic.

As the national body in Scotland for the development, accreditation, assessment and certification of qualifications, the core purpose of SQA is to set and maintain standards in education. It is important for Bòrd na Gàidhlig as we bring more and more young people with Gaelic qualifications into the employment sector that we have the organisation's support. This will now be very evident to the general public through SQA's day to day operations and continuing efforts to use more and more Gaelic.

### **Bright Red Official Past Papers**

SQA and Bright Red Publishing are also pleased to announce the publication of first official past papers for Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig subjects. This project was undertaken in conjunction with Stòrlann, the national body established by the Scottish Government in 1999 to co-ordinate the production and distribution of curriculum resources for Gaelic education.

### **Quote from Alan Grierson of Bright Red:**

Bright Red Publishing is delighted to work with the SQA and Stòrlann to deliver the first ever Official Past Papers and Answers in Gaelic/ Gàidhlig for Standard Grade students and teachers.

### **Bilingual Quote from Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig:**

We are greatly indebted to SQA and Bright Red for taking this step forward with such enthusiasm and we hope the project will enhance Gaelic/Gàidhlig's profile amongst high school pupils. Pupils studying Gaelic/Gàidhlig are as deserving as any others of quality revision materials.

Tha sinn fada an comain **SQA** agus **Bright Red Publishing** airson ùidh mhòr a ghabhail sa phròiseact seo agus tha sinn an dòchas gum bi na leabhraichean 2007-2010 a' nochdadh sna bùthan ann an ùine nach bi ro fhada. Tha sinn an dùil gum bi buaidh aig a' phròiseact seo air ìomhaigh na Gàidhlig anns na h-àrd-sgoiltean. Tha sgoilearan Gàidhlig a cheart cho airidh air stuth-taic ri sgoilearan sam bith eile agus chì iad gu bheil na h-aon ghoireasan rim faighinn ann an Gàidhlig 's a tha anns na cuspairean eile aca.

**-ENDS-**

### **Further information:**

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### **Notes to Editors**

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Scottish Government Schools' Directorate. It is the national accreditation and awarding body in Scotland.

SQA works in partnership with schools, colleges, universities and industry to provide high quality, flexible and relevant qualifications and assessments - embedding industry standards where appropriate. In addition, SQA ensures that qualifications are inclusive, accessible to all,

that they provide clear progression pathways, facilitate lifelong learning and recognise candidate achievement.

SQA is ambitious for Scotland, determined to play a full and committed part in ensuring that the Scottish people and economy benefit from a qualifications system that is all-embracing and delivering and meeting Scotland's needs.

Our qualifications include:

- ◆ National Qualifications (including Standard Grade and National Units and Courses at Access, Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher levels)
- ◆ Skills for Work Courses
- ◆ Professional Development Awards (PDAs)
- ◆ National Progression Awards
- ◆ National Certificates
- ◆ Higher National Certificates and Diplomas (HNC/HND)
- ◆ Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)
- ◆ Customised Awards

Find out more – [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)