

## Gàidhlig

---



Welcome to the first edition of our new-look subject update. This complements our regular monthly and weekly communications, with more information relevant to your subject, and details of what we have been working on.

I would encourage you to make regular use of our subject pages, where you will find support documents, answers to **Common Questions**, and links to other areas of interest. Documents that must be treated confidentially can be found on our secure site and you can arrange access to these through your SQA Co-ordinator.

I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact us if you have any questions.

**Marilyn Waters**  
Qualifications Manager

---

## Contacting the team

**Marilyn Waters**  
**Qualifications Manager**  
Tel: 0345 213 5927  
[marilyn.waters@sqa.org.uk](mailto:marilyn.waters@sqa.org.uk)

**Leah McKerracher**  
**Qualifications Officer**  
Tel: 0345 213 5420  
[leah.mckerracher@sqa.org.uk](mailto:leah.mckerracher@sqa.org.uk)

## Updates to documents

### New Higher

Documents containing mandatory information on the new Higher were reviewed and revised in April and May 2014, along with the Higher Unit assessment support packs.

A high level summary of these updates can be found in the Notification of changes spreadsheet for Higher Gàidhlig, at [www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges).

### Information on New Advanced Higher

Some important changes are being made to the AH Gàidhlig course.

Advanced Higher courses are designed to provide opportunities for learners to personalise the contexts in which they demonstrate skills. In the development period since the publication of course documents, there has been consideration of contexts other than literature that learners may be interested in pursuing in the specialist study Unit. In particular, the context of 'language in work' is one that was considered. With the increasingly common scenario of students combining languages and business in degree courses, and the credible employment opportunities which now exist in or are sustained by the use of Gàidhlig, the context of language in work is one that some candidates may wish to research in a specialist study Unit.

It was therefore proposed that the specialist study be repackaged slightly to focus on the skills of planning and carrying out research into either literature **or** language in work. Those who wish to remain firmly focused on literature can still do so, but provision is also made for those who wish to pursue more vocational interests.

A related proposal concerned how we externally assess the final piece of work produced through the specialist study. Currently, it is examined within the question paper Literature section, but it was proposed that this be changed to an externally assessed folio. The level of demand and marks assigned would remain unchanged; candidates would effectively plan and research their own focus of study within the specialist study Unit, and the final product of this would be assessed within the folio, by SQA markers, and against a common set of marking instructions. Additionally, it was proposed that, as the focus of this work is on the final product of research, candidates should write the folio in English, as they are already being assessed on Gàidhlig writing skills in the discursive writing part of the question paper.

---

---

Targeted engagement and consultation was carried out with a range of key stakeholders, and all of these proposals were adopted. More information will be made available on the AH Gàidhlig subject page, and Unit assessment support and coursework information currently under development will reflect these changes.

## Support and guidance

**Finalised Marking Instructions for the 2014 Gàidhlig** question papers have been published on the Gàidhlig subject pages of SQA's website.

**Guidance on performance in external Course assessments** and evidence generated for internal assessment is published annually. This includes Course Reports, External Assessment Reports and Verification Key Messages, all of which will be available in the autumn via the relevant subject pages of SQA's website. Internal Assessment Reports will not be published for the new National Courses.

The following Verification Key Messages are now available:

◆ **National 3 to National 5 Gàidhlig**

Please take time to read each of the above reports as they contain useful feedback on candidate performance in 2013–14.

## Looking ahead to 2014–15

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2013–14. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing to work with them during session 2014–15.

### Recruitment opportunities

We are currently in the process of recruiting for a number of vacancies that we are looking to fill between now and February 2015. Vacancies include new and replacement appointments for the following roles in relation to the new qualifications:

◆ Advanced Higher Visiting Assessors

We are seeking to recruit additional Visiting Assessors (VAs) to conduct Advanced Higher Talking assessments with candidates in candidates' own centres.

For more information, please visit [www.sqa.org.uk/cfeappointeevacancies](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfeappointeevacancies).

### Understanding Standards

Throughout session 2014–15, we will be publishing a range of Understanding Standards materials for both Unit and Course assessment. These materials will include candidate evidence with

---

---

commentaries and can be used by centres for training and bench-marking purposes. We will also run Understanding Standards events for Unit assessment, for Nominees to share knowledge of Unit assessment with their colleagues. In addition, we will run Understanding Standards events for Course assessment for National 5, which will be open to all subject specialists.

Further information will follow in SQA's weekly and monthly centre updates.

---