



Advanced Higher
Course
Specification



Advanced Higher Modern Languages Course Specification

C711 77 Cantonese
C730 77 French
C731 77 Gaelic (Learners)
C734 77 German
C742 77 Italian
C745 77 Mandarin (Simplified)
C746 77 Mandarin (Traditional)
C769 77 Spanish

Valid from August 2015

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: Advanced Higher Modern Languages

SCQF: level 7 (32 SCQF credit points)

Course code: C711 77 Cantonese
C730 77 French
C731 77 Gaelic (Learners)
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C742 77 Italian
C745 77 Mandarin (Simplified)
C746 77 Mandarin (Traditional)
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Mandatory Units

Understanding Language (Advanced Higher)	8 SCQF credit points
Using Language (Advanced Higher)	8 SCQF credit points
Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)	8 SCQF credit points

Course assessment **8 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ the relevant Higher Modern Languages Course

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in a modern language or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its Component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

Learning a new language enables learners to make connections with different people and their cultures and to play a fuller part as global citizens. The ability to use language lies at the centre of thinking and learning.

Language is at the core of thinking. Learners reflect, communicate and develop ideas through language. This Course provides learners with the opportunity to:

- ◆ develop advanced skills in listening and talking, reading and writing, which are essential for learning, work and life
- ◆ use a range of different media effectively for learning and communication
- ◆ further develop an understanding of how language works, and use language to communicate ideas and information in the contexts of society, learning, employability and culture
- ◆ use creative and critical thinking as well as other higher-order language skills to synthesise ideas and arguments
- ◆ develop skills in literary appreciation
- ◆ further enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures
- ◆ explore the interconnected nature of languages
- ◆ develop independent learning skills including research and analytical skills

The study of a modern language has a unique contribution to make to the development of cultural awareness, as it enhances learners' understanding and enjoyment of other cultures and of their own. They gain insights into other ways of thinking and other views of the world, and therefore develop a much richer understanding of active citizenship.

Learners encounter a wide range of different types of texts in different media. Building on the four capacities, this Course enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness and be creative.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The main purpose of the Course is to further develop the skills of listening and talking, reading and writing, in order to understand and use one of the following languages:

- ◆ Cantonese
- ◆ French
- ◆ Gaelic (Learners)
- ◆ German
- ◆ Italian
- ◆ Mandarin (Simplified or Traditional)
- ◆ Spanish

This Course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills. In particular, it aims to enable learners to:

- ◆ further develop the ability to listen and talk, read and write in a modern language, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ further develop the ability to understand and use a modern language in a range of contexts
- ◆ further develop the language skills of translation
- ◆ further develop grammatical knowledge
- ◆ develop the ability to plan and research, integrating and applying language skills, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ develop independent learning and higher-order language skills

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at different paces.

It provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a Modern Language qualification at a lower SCQF level.

Progression from Advanced Higher Modern Languages includes opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to:

- ◆ further education
- ◆ higher education
- ◆ careers in:
 - business
 - diplomatic service
 - education
 - interpreting
 - law
 - media
 - tourism
 - translating

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

This Course is made up of three mandatory Units:

- ◆ Understanding Language (Advanced Higher)
- ◆ Using Language (Advanced Higher)
- ◆ Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to further develop and extend their listening and talking, reading and writing skills in order to understand and use the modern language.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

Understanding Language (Advanced Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop and extend reading and listening skills in the modern language, and to develop their knowledge and understanding of complex and sophisticated language in the contexts of society, learning, employability and culture.

Using Language (Advanced Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop and extend talking and writing skills in the modern language, and to develop their knowledge and understanding of complex and sophisticated language in the contexts of society, learning, employability and culture.

Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop and extend planning, research and analytical skills in order to undertake an independent specialist study based on literature or media or language in work.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section.

These cover:

- ◆ advanced reading, listening, talking and writing skills in the modern language, as appropriate to purpose and audience, in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture
- ◆ advanced knowledge and understanding required to understand and use complex and sophisticated language, as appropriate to purpose and audience, in the contexts of society, learning, employability and culture
- ◆ understanding an advanced range of grammatical knowledge when using the modern language
- ◆ advanced knowledge and understanding required to apply the language skills of translation
- ◆ analysis of literature or media or language in work within the context of the modern language

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Understanding Language (Advanced Higher)

In response to texts which use complex and sophisticated language, learners will be required to provide evidence of their listening and reading skills in the modern language, in one of the following contexts: society, learning, employability, or culture.

Using Language (Advanced Higher)

Using complex and sophisticated language, learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking and writing skills in the modern language, in one of the following contexts: society, learning, employability, or culture.

Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their planning, research and analysis skills based on literature or media or language in work within the context of the modern language.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units is provided in the *Unit Assessment Support*.

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of added value. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course, as defined in the Course rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

Learners will provide evidence of their listening and talking, reading and writing skills, and their ability to understand and use the modern language in a range of contexts.

The Course assessment will take the form of:

- ◆ two **question papers**, through which learners will demonstrate their reading, translation, listening and discursive writing skills in the modern language
- ◆ a **performance**, through which learners will demonstrate their talking skills in the modern language
- ◆ a **portfolio**, written in English, through which learners will demonstrate their analytical skills in relation to literature or media or language in work within the context of the modern language

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

1.2 Writing

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

5.3 Applying

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

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History of changes

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	2.0	Course codes added and structure of Units updated in Course outline. Further information provided about skills developed in the Relationship between course and curriculum section and Purpose and aims section. Further information provided about progression from Advanced Higher in Information about learners section. Clarification provided regarding new Unit structure in Course Structure section. Clarifications made to Skills, Knowledge and Understanding section. Clarifications made to Course Assessment information in Assessment section.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2015

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