



# **Advanced Higher Modern Languages**

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## **Draft National Course Specification**

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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:** to be advised

### Mandatory Units

**Modern Languages: Understanding and Using Language (Advanced Higher)** 16 SCQF credit points

### Optional Units

**Modern Languages: Extended Reading/Viewing (Advanced Higher)** 8 SCQF credit points

**Modern Languages: Language in Work (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:

- ♦ Higher Modern Languages Course

### Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ♦ other qualifications in modern languages 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**

The ability to use language lies at the centre of thinking and learning. Learners reflect, communicate and develop ideas through language. Advanced Higher Modern Languages provides learners with the opportunity to develop advanced skills in listening and talking, reading and writing, and to further develop an understanding of how language works.

Learners use language skills to communicate ideas and information in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture.

Learners use creative and critical thinking, as well as other higher order language skills, to synthesise ideas and arguments and 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 provides learners with a means of communicating directly with people from different cultures, enhancing their 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, Advanced Higher Modern Languages 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 develop advanced skills of reading, listening, talking and writing, in order to understand and use one of the following languages:

- ◆ Cantonese

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

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

- ◆ read, listen, talk and write in a modern language
- ◆ understand and use a modern language
- ◆ apply advanced language skills of translation
- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding of a modern language to a range of contexts
- ◆ understand, analyse and evaluate complex literary and/or media texts in the modern language
- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding of language in work in the modern language

### **Information about typical learners who might do the Course**

Advanced Higher Modern Languages provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at different paces. Advanced Higher Modern Languages provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a Modern Languages qualification at a lower SCQF level.

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

- ◆ Modern Languages for Work Purposes Units
- ◆ further education in the UK or in another country
- ◆ higher education in the UK or in another country
- ◆ employment

## **Course structure and conditions of award**

### **Course structure**

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 a modern language. The mandatory and optional Units, taken together, include the four language skills of listening and talking, reading and writing. The structure of the Units enables learners to focus on the skills required to understand and use a modern language and to integrate listening and talking, reading and writing skills across the Units.

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

This Course is made up of one mandatory Unit and two optional Units.

### **Mandatory Unit**

#### **Modern Languages: Understanding and Using Language (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop their understanding of cultural and topical issues in the relevant country/countries in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture. Learners develop the skills needed to understand and use a modern language in a wide range of contexts by further developing their listening, talking and reading skills, as well as offering opportunities to compare and contrast issues and to increase their language proficiency.

### **Optional Units**

#### **Modern Languages: Extended Reading/Viewing (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunities to develop analytical and evaluative skills through the study of complex literary or media texts in the modern language, or through the study of a thematic aspect of the country/countries of the modern language. Learners develop the skills needed to use a modern language by further developing their writing skills.

#### **Modern Languages: Language in Work (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to develop the productive, interactive or mediating uses of language which are often required in work-related contexts. Learners will also read and understand relevant textual material. The Unit will also provide some knowledge of specific aspects of business, commerce or other similar contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to use a modern language by further developing their writing skills.

### **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 listening and talking, reading, 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 the modern 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

and either:

- ◆ advanced knowledge and appreciation of literary and/or media texts in the modern language

or:

- ◆ advanced knowledge and appreciation of a thematic aspect

or:

- ◆ advanced knowledge and appreciation of language in work

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](http://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 judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

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

#### **Modern Languages: Understanding and Using Language (Advanced Higher)**

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their reading, listening and talking skills, using complex language, in the modern language in one of the following contexts: society, learning, employability, or culture.

#### **Modern Languages: Extended Reading/Viewing (Advanced Higher)**

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their writing skills, using complex language, in the modern language by analysing and evaluating one of the following: a literary or media text or a thematic aspect of the country/countries of the modern language.

#### **Modern Languages: Language in Work (Advanced Higher)**

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their writing skills, using complex language, in the modern language in the context of work.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units is provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

### 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 Advanced Higher Modern Languages Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ breadth
- ◆ challenge

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



The Course assessment will take the form of:

- ◆ a **performance**, through which learners will demonstrate their talking skills in the modern language
- ◆ a **portfolio**, through which learners will demonstrate their analysis skills, in English, of either literature and/or a background topic, or the modern language in work
- ◆ a **question paper**, through which learners will demonstrate their reading, translation, listening and writing skills in the modern language

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## 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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**Published:** May 2012 (draft version 1.0)

**Superclass:** to be advised

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## History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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Note: You are advised to check SQA's website (**[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)**) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.