

Specification for the Scots Language Award (SCQF levels 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Award Codes:

SCQF level 3	GJ7D 43
SCQF level 4	GJ7E 44
SCQF level 5	GJ7F 45
SCQF level 6	GJ7G 46

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

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Introduction

This is the specification for the *Scots Language Award* at SCQF levels 3,4,5 and 6.

It includes the Award structure, details of assessment requirements and guidance on access. Additional guidance on delivery and assessment can be found in the *Scots Language Award and Unit Support Notes (SCQF levels 3-6)* .

Target groups

This Award will be relevant to a wide range of learners who have an interest in language in general and/or a particular interest in the Scots language. It will also be of relevant to learners with an interest in history.

Young people and adult learners studying in Scotland - in secondary schools, further education institutions or community learning and development settings - may find the Award of particular interest. It will provide opportunities for these learners to develop their understanding of, and ability to use, the Scots language in a contemporary context. This, in turn, will enhance their understanding of the cultural, linguistic and literary heritage of the country in which they live.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners may benefit from having the skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to the following or equivalent:

- ◆ a *Scottish Studies Award* at levels 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6
- ◆ an *English Course* or Units at National 3, 4, 5 or Higher
- ◆ a *Modern Languages Course* or Units at National 3, 4, 5 or Higher
- ◆ a *Gàidhlig Course* or Units at National 3, 4, 5 or Higher
- ◆ a *History Course* or Units at National 3, 4, 5 or Higher

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate foundation for those studying this Award at SCQF levels 3, 4 or 5.

Progression

This Award or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ the *Scots Language Award* at the same level or the level above
- ◆ an *English Courses* or Units at the same level or the level above
- ◆ a *Modern Languages Course* or Units at the same level or the level above
- ◆ a *History Course* or Units at the same level or the level above
- ◆ a *Scottish Studies Award* at the same level or the level above
- ◆ the *National Certificate in Celtic Studies* at SCQF level 6 or its Units
- ◆ training or employment

Equality and inclusion

This Award Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of candidates should be taken into account when selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence, consistent with maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

Rationale

The Scots language is widely used throughout Scotland and parts of Northern Ireland. Its origins lie in the unique historical mixture of Old English, Old Norse, Latin, French, Dutch and Gaelic spoken by settlers and immigrants in lowlands and other parts of Scotland. It is a sister language to English – whose Germanic roots it shares – and it also has close affinities with Scandinavian languages like Norwegian and Danish. Scots - along with Cornish, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh – is one of the distinct regional languages of the United Kingdom, as recognised by the Scottish and UK Governments, and by the Council of Europe.

Scots has a variety of dialects and, in its various forms, remains the first language of many Scottish people today. It also has a distinguished literary and oral tradition stretching from the early Middle Ages to the present time. It is not only a language of historical interest but also a living language of contemporary relevance to those who speak it and to those who want to understand Scotland's history, culture and people.

For those who use the language today, the *Scots Language Award* at SCQF levels 3, 4, 5 and 6 will help them develop their ability to communicate, think critically and use their own language creatively. They will also gain a deeper insight into their own history and cultural heritage.

For those who do not already use the language, the Award will enhance their understanding of how language works, and their ability to communicate and use language creatively. It will also enhance their understanding of Scotland's history, people and culture.

In common with all Awards, this Award reflects the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence. It allows time for learning and reflection, focuses on the development of skills and the application of learning, and provides scope for personalisation and choice.

Purpose and Aims of the Award

The purpose of this Award is to allow learners to develop their thinking skills while learning about the history and development of the Scots language, including its historical and contemporary uses. Learners will also develop their ability to understand, and communicate in, the Scots language.

The main aims of the Award at all SCQF levels are to give learners the opportunity to develop:

- ◆ an understanding of the history and development of the Scots language
- ◆ an understanding of the place and status of the Scots language today
- ◆ a knowledge of its relationship to other languages
- ◆ the ability to understand, and communicate in, the Scots language

At SCQF levels 5 and 6 they will also have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of some linguistic features of the Scots language.

The Award will also enhance learners understanding of the ways in which language, in general, works.

Award Structure

At each level, learners must complete **two** mandatory Units. Both Units are at the same SCQF level as the Award and have a credit value of 6 SCQF credit points each. A brief description of each Unit is given below.

Scots Language: History and Development (SCQF levels 3-6)

The purpose of this Unit is to allow learners to develop an understanding of the history and development of the Scots language from its origins to the present day. This will include knowledge of its relationship to other languages.

Scots Language: Understanding and Communicating (SCQF levels 3-6)

The purpose of this Unit is to allow learners to develop their ability to understand, and communicate in, the Scots language. This will involve listening to or reading texts in Scots, and creating and producing communications in Scots.

Details of the mandatory requirements for each Unit can be found in the relevant *Unit Specifications*. Additional guidance on delivery and assessment can be found in the *Award and Unit Support Notes (SCQF levels 3, 4, 5 and 6)*.

Framework

At **SCQF level 3**, learners must complete the following two mandatory Units:

Unit Code	Unit Title	SCQF Credit Points
H790 43	Scots Language: History and Development (SCQF level 3)	6
H791 43	Scots Language: Understanding and Communicating (SCQF level 3)	6

At **SCQF level 4**, learners must complete the following two mandatory Units:

Unit Code	Unit Title	SCQF Credit Points
H790 44	Scots Language: History and Development (SCQF level 4)	6
H791 44	Scots Language: Understanding and Communicating (SCQF level 4)	6

At **SCQF level 5**, learners must complete the following two mandatory Units:

Unit Code	Unit Title	SCQF Credit Points
H790 45	Scots Language: History and Development (SCQF level 5)	6
H791 45	Scots Language: Understanding and Communicating (SCQF level 5)	6

At **SCQF level 6**, learners must complete the following two mandatory Units:

Unit Code	Unit Title	SCQF Credit Points
H790 46	Scots Language: History and Development (SCQF level 6)	6
H791 46	Scots Language: Understanding and Communicating (SCQF level 6)	6

Assessment

Evidence can be presented in any form appropriate to the contexts chosen for assessment and for the learner. This evidence may be paper-based or recorded (oral, visual or electronic). Performance evidence must be supported by assessor observation checklists and/or oral questions and assessor records of learners' responses. Learners may also provide evidence through audio recordings, video diaries, blogs or other electronic means. The specific Evidence Requirements for both contributing Units can be found in each Unit Specification.

Skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

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

3 Health and Wellbeing

3.1 Personal Learning

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking Skills

5.1 Remembering

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

5.4 Analysing and Evaluating

There will also be opportunities for learners to develop some or all of the following skills, depending upon the approaches taken to learning, teaching and assessment of the Units.

1 Literacy

1.1 Reading

1.2 Writing

1.3 Listening and talking

Further information on these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills should be at the same SCQF level of the Award and be consistent with the SCQF level descriptor. Further information on enhancing skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work is given in the *Scots Language Award and Unit Support Notes (SCQF levels 3, 4, 5 and 6)*.

Administrative information

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History of changes to Award Specification

Award details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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