



Higher
Course
Specification



Higher Gaelic (Learners) Course Specification (C731 76)

Valid from August 2014

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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:	Higher Gaelic (Learners)
SCQF:	level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code:	C731 76

Mandatory Units

H277 76 Understanding Language (Higher)	9 SCQF credit points
H278 76 Using Language (Higher)	9 SCQF credit points

Course assessment **6 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes six 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 by equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 5 Gaelic (Learners) Course or relevant component Units

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other SQA qualifications in Gaelic (Learners) 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 the Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, and 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 and fit for purpose and they 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.

The study of Gaelic has a unique contribution to make to the development of cultural awareness. 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, the 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 develop the skills of reading, listening, talking and writing, in order to understand and use Gaelic.

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 Gaelic
- ◆ understand and use Gaelic
- ◆ develop the language skills of translation
- ◆ understand and evaluate Gaelic literary texts

- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding of Gaelic

The Course contributes towards the development of literacy skills by providing learners with opportunities to read, listen, talk and write in Gaelic, and to reflect on how this relates to English.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

The Course provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

The Course offers learners the opportunity to develop detailed and complex language skills in the meaningful real-life contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture.

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to: develop skills in reading, listening, talking and writing, which are essential for learning, work and life; develop understanding of how language works; use different media effectively for learning and communication; and use language to communicate ideas and information.

The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments; to enhance their enjoyment and their understanding of their own and other cultures; to explore the interconnected nature of languages; and to develop independent learning.

Prior learning in the subject is not essential, although the Course provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a broad general education or in Gaelic qualifications at a lower SCQF level.

The Course is designed to be accessible. The Units are organised by the receptive (listening and reading) and productive (talking and writing) skills of language.

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to National Courses, and to other SQA qualifications in Modern Languages and other related fields.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

This Course is made up of two mandatory Units. The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their reading, listening, talking and writing skills, in order to understand and use Gaelic. The two Units, taken together, include the four language skills of reading, listening, talking and writing.

The structure of the Units enables learners to focus on the skills required to understand and use Gaelic, and to integrate reading, listening, talking and writing skills across the Units. Each Unit also offers opportunities for learners to focus on particular skills.

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

Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language (Higher)

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

Gaelic (Learners): Using Language (Higher)

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

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 the 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 include:

- ◆ reading, listening, talking and writing skills in Gaelic in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of detailed and complex language required to understand and use Gaelic
- ◆ knowledge and understanding required to apply the language skills of translation
- ◆ applying grammatical knowledge and understanding
- ◆ knowledge and understanding required to evaluate detailed and complex written Gaelic literary texts

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 judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

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

Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language (Higher)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their reading and listening skills in Gaelic, using detailed and complex language, in one of the following contexts: society, learning, employability, or culture. Learners will be required to provide evidence of their understanding of at least one written Gaelic literary text.

Gaelic (Learners): Using Language (Higher)

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

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. 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 Higher **Gaelic (Learners)** Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

Learners will provide evidence of their reading, listening, talking and writing skills, and their ability to understand and use Gaelic in the contexts of *society*, *learning*, *employability* and *culture*. The Course assessment will take the form of a [performance](#)², through which learners will demonstrate their talking skills, and two

¹ Definitions can be found here: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster>

² See link above for definition.

[question papers](#)³ through which learners will demonstrate their listening, reading, and writing skills in Gaelic.

³ See link above for definition.

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.

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

5.3 Applying

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 to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	'Literary appreciation' added to Understanding Language section (p. 5)	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014

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