



National 4  
Course  
Specification



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# National 4 Modern Languages Course Specification

<b>C711 74</b>	<b>Cantonese</b>
<b>C730 74</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>C734 74</b>	<b>German</b>
<b>C742 74</b>	<b>Italian</b>
<b>C745 74</b>	<b>Mandarin (Simplified)</b>
<b>C746 74</b>	<b>Mandarin (Traditional)</b>
<b>C769 74</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
<b>C770 74</b>	<b>Urdu</b>

**Valid from August 2013**

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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:** National 4 Modern Languages

**SCQF:** level 4 (24 SCQF credit points)

**Course code:**

C711 74	Cantonese
C730 74	French
C734 74	German
C742 74	Italian
C745 74	Mandarin (Simplified)
C746 74	Mandarin (Traditional)
C769 74	Spanish
C770 74	Urdu

## Mandatory Units

**Modern Languages: Understanding Language (National 4)** 9 SCQF credit points  
**Modern Languages: Using Language (National 4)** 9 SCQF credit points

## Added Value Unit

**Modern Languages: Assignment (National 4)** 6 SCQF credit points

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for the assessment of added value in the Added Value Unit. Further information on this Unit 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 and knowledge required by the following or by equivalent experience and/or qualifications:

- ◆ National 3 Modern Languages Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ Modern Languages for Life and Work Award (SCQF level 4)

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

## Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other SQA qualifications in Modern Languages or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment 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.

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, 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 one of the following languages:

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

- ◆ Spanish
- ◆ Urdu

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 knowledge of a modern language
- ◆ plan, research and apply language skills

The Course contributes towards the development of literacy skills by providing learners with opportunities to read, listen, talk and write in a modern language, 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 different paces.

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 Modern Languages qualifications at a lower SCQF level.

The Course offers learners the opportunity to develop straightforward 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; enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures; and explore the interconnected nature of languages.

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 three mandatory Units. The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their reading, listening, talking and writing skills in order to understand and use a modern language. The three Units, taken together, include the four language skills of reading, listening and talking, 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 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.

### **Modern Languages: Understanding Language (National 4)**

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

### **Modern Languages: Using Language (National 4)**

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

### **Added Value Unit: Modern Languages: Assignment (National 4)**

The purpose of this Added Value Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to apply their language skills to investigate a chosen topic in a familiar context in the modern language.

## Conditions of award

To achieve the National 4 Modern Languages Course, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 4 Courses are not graded.

## Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course are given in the *Added Value Unit 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 the modern language in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture
- ◆ knowledge of straightforward language required to understand and use a modern language

- ◆ applying grammatical knowledge

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

Further information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Support Notes* and the *Added Value Unit Specification*.

## Unit assessment

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

They can be assessed on an individual Unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one Unit.

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 Language (National 4)**

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

### **Modern Languages: Using Language (National 4)**

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

## Added Value Unit

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)<sup>1</sup>. At National 4, added value will be assessed in the Unit Modern Languages: Assignment, which is the Added Value Unit. The Added Value Unit will 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 and application.

In the National 4 Modern Languages Course, the Added Value Unit will focus on challenge and application.

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their ability to apply their reading, listening, talking and writing skills in the modern language on a chosen topic.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58409.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58409.html)



# 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 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:** December 2013 (version 2.0)

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## History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	2.0	Evidence requirement for Units modified. One context required, instead of two.	Qualifications Development Manager	December 2013

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