



2013 Gaelic (Learners)
Standard Grade – Writing
Finalised Marking Instructions

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Part One: General Marking Principles for Gaelic (Learners) Standard Grade Writing

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this Paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the specific Marking Instructions for each question.

- (a)** Marks for each candidate response must always be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the specific Marking Instructions for the relevant question. If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed Marking Instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your Team Leader/Principal Assessor.
- (b)** Marking should always be positive ie, marks should be awarded for what is correct and not deducted for errors or omissions.

GENERAL MARKING ADVICE: Gaelic (Learners) Standard Grade Writing

The marking schemes are written to assist in determining the “minimal acceptable answer” rather than listing every possible correct and incorrect answer. The following notes are offered to support Markers in making judgements on candidates’ evidence, and apply to marking both end of unit assessments and course assessments.

In allocating a grade, the criteria should be referred to along with the Extended Grade Criteria. A candidate who is operating at Credit level will competently integrate almost all the criteria listed. At General level, there will be some omissions, inaccuracies and difficulties in integrating the criteria.

Candidates' work will be assessed by referring to the extended Grade Related Criteria for Writing.

The extended Grade Related Criteria for Writing are:

General Level
(grades 4, 3)

Credit Level
(grades 2, 1)

Purpose of Communication

The candidate can respond to given stimuli, convey and seek specific information and express feelings and opinions.

The candidate can respond to given stimuli, convey and seek information, express feelings and opinions, describe a personal or vicarious experience and common activities and events.

Nature of Communication

With time for preparation, the candidate can communicate intelligibly, showing some evidence of accuracy in spelling, grammar and sentence construction.

With time for preparation, the candidate can convey meaning clearly at first reading. Work shows accuracy in spelling, grammar and sentence construction, a range of vocabulary and some appropriate use of idiom.

Work in the main consists of sentences and short sequences of sentences which may contain subordinate clauses and modification devices such as adjectives and adverbs.

Extended work is produced, eg reports, reviews, letters and transcripts of dialogues or interviews.

The aspects on the previous page can be tabulated for ease of application, as follows:

Intelligibility		Intelligible			Meaning clear at 1st reading			
	General Level 4		General Level 3		Credit Level 2		Credit Level 1	
Spelling		Some accuracy			Mainly accurate			
	General Level 4		General Level 3		Credit Level 2		Credit Level 1	
Grammar		Some accuracy			Mainly accurate			
	General Level 4		General Level 3		Credit Level 2		Credit Level 1	
Sentence construction		Some accuracy			Accuracy			
	General Level 4		General Level 3		Credit Level 2		Credit Level 1	
Vocabulary		No specification			A range			
	General Level 4		General Level 3		Credit Level 2		Credit Level 1	
Idiom		No specification			Some appropriate use			
	General Level 4		General Level 3		Credit Level 2		Credit Level 1	
Command of language		Mainly short sentences			Short and detailed sentences			
	General Level 4		General Level 3		Credit Level 2		Credit Level 1	
Standard		Satisfactory – high/medium			Satisfactory – high			
	General Level 4		General Level 3		Credit Level 2		Credit Level 1	

Each candidate's work is assessed on its own merits, based on the above aspects, in relation to the purpose of communication appropriate to the stimuli. In deciding which of the two grades to award within each Level, consideration is given to whether, in meeting the stated criteria for a particular Level, the candidate

- has demonstrated a high standard of performance, or
- has demonstrated a lower standard of performance but nevertheless meets the criteria

If a candidate does not merit grade 4 or better, enter the code 444 (instead of grade) on the script and on Form Ex6.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]