

Equality Review Summary



Qualification	Modern Languages and Gaelic (Learners)
----------------------	----------------------------------------

Level	National 5
--------------	------------

REVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS EQUALITY REVIEW

Date of review	17/08/2017
-----------------------	------------

Coursework and/ or Question Paper revisions

A new course component, 'assignment: writing', will be introduced which will be worth 20 marks. This assignment will use similar assessment approaches to those currently developed in the National 5 'Using Language' unit. Candidates will create and submit one piece of writing which will be externally marked by SQA. In addition, in order to enhance breadth and maximise opportunities for candidates to fully demonstrate their skills the assessment conditions for the 'performance: talking' component will be updated. This will require candidates to discuss a second context in the conversation section.

These revisions will ensure that the current knowledge and skills will continue to be assessed in the course, following the removal of units.

To recognise the equal status of all four language skills, scaling will be applied to ensure they are given equal weighting.

There will be no change to the current question papers.

Equality & inclusion issues

No changes have been made to the aims, rationale or content of the course. Only the Course assessment has changed as outlined above. This means that the original equality review carried out and attached remains valid and fit for purpose. It should be noted however, that the Units, which were a feature of the original ERF, have now been removed.

The introduction of a writing assignment could have a negative impact on some disabled candidates for example, those who have dyslexia or other writing difficulties.

Actions that will mitigate any adverse impact outlined above

The provision of appropriate assessment arrangements and other supportive practices such as the use of ICT and assistive software such as spell checks will mitigate the adverse impact for many candidates. SQA will also continue to ensure that individual requests for reasonable adjustments are considered where appropriate.

SQA recognises that reasonable adjustments or assessment arrangements may be incapable of mitigating all of the potential negative impacts entirely. Nevertheless, the decision to introduce new Course work has been taken to ensure that the standards, quality and credibility of the National Qualifications are maintained.

ORIGINAL NATIONAL QUALIFICATION DEVELOPMENT EQUALITY REVIEW

Date of review 22/05/2014

Summary of Conclusion and recommendation

The development of all four skills and the demonstration of their achievement are deemed to be important to qualifications in Gaelic (Learners) and Modern Languages. Therefore it may not be possible to remove all of the potential barriers identified as there needs to be sufficient evidence that the candidate has demonstrated the required level of attainment in the receptive and productive elements of the qualification.

SQA will continue to consider any request for Reasonable Adjustments where SQA has not specified that the particular adjustment is not reasonable.

SQA has specified that

- (i) BSL cannot be used to demonstrate competence of speaking and listening skills in the target language.
- (ii) Human scribes or speech recognition technology cannot be used to demonstrate competence of writing skills in the target language.