

National 5 Gàidhlig



Guidance on gathering key evidence for producing estimates in session 2020–21

This document provides subject-level guidance to SQA approved centres on gathering key evidence to support estimates for National 5 Gàidhlig in session 2020–21. You should read this guidance alongside [National Courses: guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates](#) and the SQA Academy resource, [Quality assurance of estimates for National Courses](#).

This document also includes information on subject-level assessment resources.

Gathering key evidence to produce estimates for National 5 Gàidhlig

Every year you provide estimates for your candidates. This document and *National Courses: guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates* will give you additional support and guidance to support your decision making for session 2020–21. Evidence should be gathered later in the course, as a realistic reflection of a candidate's attainment. It is important to note that it is not the **quantity** of evidence, but the **quality** of evidence, in relation to its predictive value, that will support you during the estimation process.

The following types of key evidence are likely to provide a good predictive value and may be helpful, although there may be other types of key evidence you feel you would like to use (see 'Supplementary evidence' section below).

Types of key evidence and assessment resources

You can generate the most valid evidence for question paper components using assessment instruments which replicate, as far as possible, the standard, duration, format and security of SQA question papers. You should gather evidence where candidates have had opportunities to apply the skills, knowledge and understanding they have learned from the course in unseen situations.

The relative weightings of marks which contribute to the National 5 Gàidhlig course assessment for session 2020–21 are given below. You should take these into account when reviewing candidates' evidence across the four contributing components.

Removing the 20 marks for the assignment–writing this session, makes the overall mark for course assessment 100 marks, rather than the usual 120 marks.

Note: the assignment–writing for session 2020–21 should not be undertaken and not be included in the estimates.

In National 5 Gàidhlig, you must therefore consider candidates' performance in the skills of:

- ◆ reading for understanding, analysis and evaluation
- ◆ critical reading (literature)
- ◆ listening
- ◆ talking

You must submit an overall estimate based on the assessment of all of these skills.

Question paper components

Candidates do not need to produce evidence for question paper components on a single occasion, but it is important that assessment tasks are unseen.

It would be best to use internally assessed question papers towards the end of the academic year when all or the majority of the course has been delivered.

For the skills of reading, literature and listening, many centres set an internal exam as an effective means of covering several assessment components and to ensure broad coverage of the skills, knowledge and understanding of the course. If you are using an internal exam, it should be conducted under supervised conditions.

When setting an internal assessment, please note:

- ◆ Candidates do not need to complete all parts of question paper component assessments at the same time. You may choose to set separate papers for reading, writing and listening.
- ◆ As far as possible, questions set should reflect the standards set by SQA for the final course assessment, for example by using 2021 National 5 question papers.
- ◆ Assessments may sample previous SQA examinations, but you must not use past papers in their entirety.
- ◆ If you devise your own assessments you must ensure that the structure, length, duration and language used is appropriate for the level and meets the standards required.
- ◆ You may choose to use question papers produced by external agencies. These may provide suitable evidence of performance in a question paper. They do not have to be the most recent version but must meet the demands of the [National 5 Gàidhlig Course Specification](#) and have an appropriate level of demand.

Component 1: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation

This component has a relative weighting of 30% of the overall course assessment (30 marks out of a total of 100 marks).

Candidates read and answer questions on an unseen passage of detailed non-fiction writing of approximately 600 words.

This assessment task should give candidates the opportunity to demonstrate some of the following skills:

- ◆ understanding of the writer's ideas by re-casting ideas from the passage in candidates' own words
- ◆ understanding of vocabulary in context
- ◆ analysis of language (word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, punctuation, text structure — opening, conclusion, linkage, etc)
- ◆ evaluation of the writer's techniques or the overall impact of the text
- ◆ inferring meaning
- ◆ summarising: candidates demonstrate their understanding of the writer's ideas through identifying and isolating key points or main ideas

Refer to the [National 5 Gàidhlig Course Specification](#), pages 34–35.

Component 2: Literature

This component has a relative weighting of 20% of the overall course assessment (20 marks out of a total of 100 marks).

Candidates apply their understanding, analysis and evaluation skills to previously studied texts from the following genres: poetry, short story, novel, play or film/TV.

Candidates respond to one unseen question from a choice of five (one for each genre), giving them the opportunity to demonstrate some of the following skills:

- ◆ summarising: candidates show understanding of the writer's ideas, narrative events or characterisation through summarising/explaining using their own words
- ◆ analysis of language (word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, punctuation, text structure — opening, conclusion, etc)
- ◆ analysis of how a writer achieves a particular effect or mood or atmosphere, etc
- ◆ analysis of overall text structure
- ◆ inferring meaning from what is implied by the writer
- ◆ evaluation of overall impact of the text, or the writer's techniques

Refer to the [National 5 Gàidhlig Course Specification](#), page 35.

Component 3: Listening

This component has a relative weighting of 20% of the overall course assessment (20 marks out of a total of 100 marks).

Candidates listen to and answer questions on a previously unheard non-fiction spoken Gaelic text, lasting approximately 2 minutes.

This assessment task should focus on giving candidates the opportunity to demonstrate the following skills:

- ◆ understanding of the speaker's ideas by re-casting them in candidates' own words
- ◆ understanding of vocabulary in context
- ◆ summarising: candidates demonstrate their understanding of the speaker's ideas through identifying key points or main ideas
- ◆ analysis of language (tone, word choice, figurative language, text structure — opening, conclusion, linkage, etc)
- ◆ evaluation of the speaker's techniques or the overall impact of the text
- ◆ inferring meaning

Refer to the [National 5 Gàidhlig Course Specification](#), page 36.

Coursework components

Component 4: assignment–writing

This component has been removed for session 2020–21 and should not contribute to estimate decisions.

Where candidates have already completed the assignment–writing, or aspects of it, you may review this as supplementary evidence (see the 'Supplementary evidence' section below).

Where candidates have already undertaken aspects of the assignment, although not a required approach, work done often helps candidates to prepare for the performance–talking.

Component 5: performance–talking

This component has a relative weighting of 30% of the overall course assessment (30 marks out of a total of 100 marks).

The best evidence to support the performance–talking is a live recording: either video or audio, as appropriate.

For National 5 Gàidhlig this means that candidates should have the opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ using detailed spoken Gaelic as part of a conversation on a topic chosen by the candidate
- ◆ using appropriate style and structure
- ◆ giving ideas and opinions

- ◆ using appropriate language resource
- ◆ the ability to maintain interaction as appropriate to purpose

The performance–talking is a one-off, single assessment event.

Refer to the [National 5 Gàidhlig Course Specification](#), pages 17–23 and 38.

Using additional assessment resources for session 2020–21: key information

It is important that you use valid and reliable assessment when gathering evidence to produce estimates for National 5 in session 2020–21.

In National 5 Gàidhlig, SQA will provide question papers for session 2020–21, which you can use when gathering evidence to support your estimates. Please note that the marking instructions have not been standardised based on candidate responses. You may therefore need to agree within your centre how to consistently mark an item if a candidate response is not covered by the marking instructions.

The National 5 question papers will only be available on SQA’s secure website — you must treat these confidentially, in the same way as other live assessment materials.

You should carefully consider how best to use these materials to support candidates, to integrate with your programme of learning, and to help you collate evidence of candidate attainment. Given current public health advice and to maximise learning and teaching time, it is important to stress that there is no expectation that schools and colleges hold a formal diet of prelims for National 5. One of the key reasons for moving to an alternative model was to create additional teaching time through removing the need for prelims and replacing the final examination diet with more flexible classroom-based assessment.

If you use a question paper in part or in its entirety, you should remind candidates that they must not discuss the content of the paper with anyone, including friends, family or on social media.

Supplementary evidence

Where candidates have completed the assignment–writing, or aspects of it, you may review this as supplementary evidence. There is no requirement for you to assign a mark to these pieces of writing.

You may conduct assessments based on the existing freestanding unit assessments (Gàidhlig: Analysis and Evaluation, Gàidhlig: Creation and Production, and Gàidhlig: Literacy) available on SQA’s secure site. These assessments have a different purpose to the usual external examination and are not subject to the same conditions of assessment; however, they can provide an indication of the performance level of individual candidates. If candidates attempt more than one freestanding unit assessment, this may demonstrate progress candidates have made. You may wish to use these assessments as supplementary evidence.

Understanding the national standard

To produce assessments which are valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair it is essential to have a clear understanding of national standards. It is important that you make use of the existing Understanding Standards materials available on [SQA Understanding Standard National 5 Gàidhlig web page](#) and on SQA's secure website, as well as using past and specimen question papers.

The SQA Understanding Standards National 5 Gàidhlig web page includes four exemplar candidate responses to the 2018 Literature question paper, with commentaries explaining the marks awarded.

SQA's secure site, under the 'Understanding Standards' tab, has exemplars of the Gàidhlig performance–talking from 2015 and 2016, with commentaries explaining the marks awarded.

Other existing assessment resources include National 5 Gàidhlig past and specimen question papers, which are available on the [National 5 Gàidhlig web page](#).

Judging evidence

Where you are basing judgements on SQA-produced assessment materials you should adhere to the relevant marking instructions, including any adaptations you have made.

For reading and listening past and specimen papers, marking instructions are published with the question paper. For general marking principles and detailed marking instructions for extended-responses (the literature component and the performance–talking) you should refer to the National 5 Gàidhlig Course Specification.

Where you use centre-devised assessments for reading and listening, you must include clear marking instructions that indicate acceptable candidate responses, as well as any responses which would not be accepted.

Assessments produced by external agencies have their own marking instructions and you must clearly indicate any amendments to incorporate additional acceptable candidate responses, as well as any responses which would not be accepted.

Grading

For National 5 Gàidhlig, you must give the appropriate weighting to each of the four components being retained for this session (reading, literature, listening and talking) as detailed in each section above in this document, to mirror the balance of the final course assessment, when arriving at your estimated grades and bands.

The removal of the coursework component 4: assignment–writing from the National 5 Gàidhlig course assessment in session 2020–21 means it should not be included in the calculation of the final estimate.

Internal quality assurance

Information and guidance on quality assurance processes that you can apply (for example cross-marking, departmental discussion) is available on the [National Qualifications Internal Verification Toolkit web page](#).