



Roinn nan Cànan  
Languages Department  
Sprachabteilung

# COURSE INFORMATION

## Gaelic Learners, Advanced Higher

The aim of the course is to encourage advanced communicative competence in Gaelic.

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*It is expected that pupils will have a sound grasp of language structures and vocabulary which have been taught in S1-Higher.*

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This Course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills. In particular, it aims to enable learners to:

- further develop the ability to listen and talk, read and write in Gaelic, as appropriate to purpose, audience through the contexts of Culture, Society, Learning and Employability
- enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures
- further develop the ability to understand and use Gaelic in a range of contexts
- further develop the language skills of translation
- further develop grammatical knowledge
- develop the ability to plan and research, integrating and applying language skills, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- develop independent learning and higher-order language skills

**Candidates who do not wish to sit the final exam may achieve individual units.** There are THREE units in total:

### Unit 1: Understanding Language

1. One Reading assessment
2. One Listening assessment

### Unit 2: Using Language

1. One Writing assessment
2. One Talking assessment

## Unit 3: Specialist Study

Plan and research and independent specialist study, based on literature or media or language in work. Note that the will double up as your PORTFOLIO which will be submitted to SQA and awarded up to 30 marks.

There are **5** internal unit assessments in total.

- Course Assessment: 300 marks
- External Exam: 120 marks
- Speaking Exam: 50 marks
- Portfolio: 30 marks

### **PAPER 1 – 1 hr 30 mins | 50 marks**

#### **Reading 30 marks | 15%**

- One text
- Questions and answers in English
- Dictionary permitted
- Overall purpose question is worth 7 marks. You must critically analyse the text in order to explain the overall purpose.

#### **Translation 20 marks | 10%**

- Translation of a portion of the text into English.
- Dictionary permitted

#### **Performance – 20 mins | 50 marks | 25%**

- Discussion which draws on at least one context and the Specialist Study.
- A visiting examiner will conduct the assessment.

### **Portfolio/Specialist Study – 30 marks | 15%**

- 1200-1500 words in English based on a Gaelic text /film you have studied.
- You must draw on evidence from at least one other Gaelic source.

### **PAPER 2 – 1 hr 20 mins | 70 marks**

#### **Listening 30 marks | 15%**

- Monologue (10 marks)
- Conversation (20 marks)
- Both recordings linked to the same context.
- Answer in English.
- Dictionary permitted\*

#### **Discursive Writing 40 marks | 20%**

- Choice of 4 questions from the four contexts.
- Do one question only.
- 250 words.
- Present a balanced and well-structured argument using complex and sophisticated language.
- Dictionary permitted.

## Resources:

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- Pupils have access to core vocabulary and notes in form of booklets linked to a range of topics.
- Links to useful websites are shared with pupils. Access to a range of websites allows up-to-date topics to be studied for personal interest and enjoyment e.g. current stories in the news.
- Traditional dictionaries and grammar reference books are supplemented by online versions
- The invaluable resources all around in the community i.e. speakers of the language.
- BBC Bitesize has been updated in line with the new AH course.
- Free access to Gaelic as it is spoken by proficient speakers of the language is available through the Gaelic television channel BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal.
- [www.learnghaelic.net](http://www.learnghaelic.net)
- [www.bbc.co.uk/alba](http://www.bbc.co.uk/alba)

## Extra information

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### Performance:

- You must only bring brief notes into the assessment e.g. prompt words. Notes must not contain full sentences.
- You are assessed on CONTENT, ACCURACY, LANGUAGE RESOURCE and INTERACTION.

### Specialist Study/Portfolio

- You must IDENTIFY an appropriate focus and create a RESEARCH PLAN. You must also SELECT and ANALYSE evidence.
- You must include a biography
- 1200-1500 excluding quotations and bibliography
- Your work must have an appropriate title which reflects your chosen focus for analysis.
- If the word count exceeds 1500 by more than 10%, a penalty will be applied.
- Marks will be awarded for CONTENT, STYLE and ORGANISATION.
- You must use at least TWO Gaelic sources
- You must complete a logbook which contains details of your progress.

You may choose from the following:

- A literature based portfolio
- A media based portfolio
- A language in work based portfolio

**Examples of a literature based portfolio:**

- Analyse the techniques used to convey meaning in a literary text.
- Analyse and compare a novel and film adaptation to it.
- Analyse and compare two or more literary texts linked by author, theme or genre.
- Analyse the ways in which historical or cultural contexts have influenced or are evident in the literary text(s).