

Modern Languages

Points of change and areas of stability across National 3, National 4 and National 5

The new National Courses combine popular and relevant topics of study from Standard Grade and Intermediate 1 and 2 Courses, as well as introducing revised content and revised methods of assessment, increasing personalisation and choice for learners. Modern Languages Courses are explored through the following areas of study:

- ◆ Understanding Language
- ◆ Using Language

Through these areas of study, learners will develop specific skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The development of subject-specific and generic skills is central to all Courses. Learners will develop these skills and techniques in context and they should be made aware of the skills they are developing and of their transferability. It is this aspect of skills development that will help learners progress to further study or the world of work.

New National Courses in Modern Languages at National 3 to National 5 develop the skills of reading, listening, talking and writing, in order to understand and use a modern language and offer opportunities for skills to be developed and integrated throughout the Course.

Course/level	National 3 (SCQF 3)	National 4 (SCQF 4)	National 5 (SCQF 5)
Areas/topics of study	<p>At National 3, the Course is designed to allow a considerable degree of flexibility in themes/topics which can be studied, increasing personalisation and choice for learners.</p> <p>Points of change new to centres include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Learners develop knowledge of simple language. ◆ The introduction of new prescribed contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture. ◆ The receptive and productive skills may be developed in an integrated way. 	<p>At National 4, the development of the four skills has a similar structure to National 3 and National 5 but differs in complexity from one level to another. This hierarchy allows for a flexible approach to enable learners to tackle assessment at the most appropriate level.</p> <p>Points of change new to centres include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Learners develop knowledge of straightforward language. ◆ New prescribed contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture. ◆ The receptive and productive skills can be developed in an integrated way. 	<p>At National 5, the development of the four skills has a similar structure to National 3 and National 4 but differs in complexity from one level to another. This hierarchy allows for a flexible approach to enable learners to tackle assessment at the most appropriate level.</p> <p>Points of change new to centres include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Learners develop knowledge of detailed language. ◆ New prescribed contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture. ◆ Progression is achieved through more open questions demanding a depth of response.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The introduction of overall purpose/author's intention question in listening and reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Learners develop knowledge of straightforward language. ◆ The use of overall purpose/author's intention question in listening and reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The receptive and productive skills can be developed in an integrated way. ◆ The use of overall purpose/author's intention question in listening and reading.
Added value/Course assessment	<p>There is no Course assessment for National 3. To achieve the National 3 Course, learners must pass all of the required Units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ National 3, like Access 3, has no question paper. ◆ National 3 Courses are not graded. ◆ There is no Added Value Unit. 	<p>To achieve the National 4 Course, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit.</p> <p>Unlike Standard Grade and Intermediate 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ National 4 Courses are not graded. ◆ There is no question paper. ◆ There is an Added Value Unit. <p>The Added Value Assignment is a new method of assessment for this subject. The Added Value Assignment will be internally marked by centres in line with SQA guidelines, and externally quality-assured by SQA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Added Value Unit will allow learners to apply a range of skills, including: knowledge and understanding, and performance. ◆ The Added Value Unit will focus on challenge and application. In this Unit the learner will apply the language skills developed in the other component Units to investigate and report on a chosen topic in the modern language by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — reading and listening to straightforward texts in the modern language 	<p>To achieve the National 5 Course, learners must pass all of the required Units and the Course assessment.</p> <p>The Course assessment will consist of two Components: a Coursework performance and two question papers.</p> <p>Coursework — performance: talking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The purpose of this performance is to carry out a spoken presentation and conversation in the modern language from one of the following contexts: society, learning, employability, or culture. <p>This performance will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding in the modern language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the ability to use detailed spoken language, as part of a presentation and conversation on the chosen topic ◆ the ability to take part effectively in a natural conversation ◆ the ability to use language accurately to convey meaning ◆ the ability to maintain interaction as appropriate to purpose

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — selecting relevant information from the texts — presenting their findings orally, in the modern language, to convey meaning — responding to questions in the modern language relevant to the chosen topic <p>◆ SQA will provide advice and guidance on the degree of support that can be provided for learners, the conditions under which this Unit will be undertaken, and the nature and amount of evidence to be retained for verification purposes.</p>	<p>SQA will provide advice and guidance on the degree of support that can be provided for learners, the conditions under which these Components will be undertaken, and the nature and amount of evidence to be generated.</p> <p>Question papers: ‘reading and writing’, ‘listening’, through which learners will demonstrate their listening, reading and writing skills, in the modern language.</p> <p>The question paper will sample the skills knowledge and understanding from the <i>Course Specification</i> and the <i>Course Assessment Specification</i>. It will differ from the styles of questions used in Standard Grade and Intermediate 2 in that the questions will be more open, broader and require a depth of response.</p>
Further information	<p>The details above for National 3 should be read in conjunction with the relevant:</p> <p>Mandatory documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course Specification ◆ Unit Specifications <p>Advice and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course and Unit Support Notes <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unit Assessment Support materials: judging evidence table 	<p>The details above for National 4 should be read in conjunction with the relevant:</p> <p>Mandatory documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course Specification ◆ Unit Specifications ◆ Added Value Unit Specification <p>Advice and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course and Unit Support Notes <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unit Assessment Support materials: judging evidence table ◆ Added Value Unit Assessment Support document: judging evidence table 	<p>The details above for National 5 should be read in conjunction with the relevant:</p> <p>Mandatory documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course Specification ◆ Unit Specifications ◆ Course Assessment Specification <p>Advice and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Course and Unit Support Notes <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unit Assessment Support materials: judging evidence table

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Coursework Component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — general assessment information on the Coursework: general marking principles — the Coursework assessment task: general marking principles, detailed marking instructions ◆ question paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — specimen question paper — general marking principles, detailed marking instructions
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