

GÀIDHLIG National 4 & 5

What are the aims of this course?

National 4 and 5 are for pupils who have had Gaelic-medium education in primary school. The courses aim to maintain and build on fluency acquired in primary school and the Middle School. It will give an overview of language and culture, introducing some literature.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

You should have had Gaelic-medium education in primary school and have continued thereafter in secondary school.

What content is included in this course?

You will learn to understand and use Gaelic in a range of contexts. Many of these will be of cultural relevance to the language, but the flexibility of the language and its use in other contexts is also highlighted. The courses can be tailored to pupils' needs but it is desirable to push pupils outside their comfort zone a little by, for example, asking them to read Gaelic poetry and short stories and perhaps a short novel.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn to understand more advanced spoken and written Gaelic than you have normally been used to and to communicate your ideas appropriately in speaking and writing. General literacy skills are fostered and an understanding of Gaelic cultural themes is encouraged. In National 5 in particular, candidates are expected to show some understanding of the background of a text, the aims of its author and its intended audience.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

In common with other languages, your teacher will use a range of resources and activities, including on-line audio and visual materials. The transfer of skills is important. This includes, for example, the application of familiar language to new contexts.

How will I be assessed?

You will be given regular feedback on your work and on how you can develop your skills further. In both N4 and N5, candidates will sit Unit Assessments for reading, writing, listening and talking. N4 includes an Added Value Unit, involving reading, listening and talking. This will also be completed by N5 candidates. Unlike N4, N5 has a course talking assessment and a final exam, comprising reading, writing and listening papers.

What are the homework requirements?

You will be expected to look over all new vocabulary which is introduced in class. Home study also involves preparation for assessments. Deadlines must be met.

What are the possible progression routes?

Suitable candidates will be able to progress from National 4 to National 5, or from National 5 to Higher.