



National
Qualifications
2025

2025 Gaelic (Learners)

Reading and Translation

Advanced Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

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General marking principles for Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners) Reading and Translation

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

- (a) Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the detailed marking instructions for this assessment.
- (b) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- (c) If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (d) Award a mark to each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions.
- (e) The marks available in this paper are as follows:
 - (i) The first set of questions (worth 23 marks) in section 1 requires candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. The marks available for each question generally range between 1-4 marks.
 - (ii) The last question in section 1 is the overall purpose question. For this question candidates must draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 7 marks available for full reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged marks of 5/3/1 are given for degrees of reference to the text and comment. 0 marks will be given where candidates show little or no inferential skills or understanding of the overall purpose of the text.
 - (iii) Section 2 is the translation question (worth 20 marks). For this question candidates must translate the underlined section of the text. The section for translation will be divided into 10 sense units. For each sense unit, 2, 1 or 0 marks will be awarded: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation, and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.
- (f) Credit should be given according to the accuracy and relevance of candidates' answers. Candidates may be awarded marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words'.

Marking instructions for each question

Section 1 – Reading

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
1.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has earned a reputation for oil industry in recent years • recognised as main city for oil and gas in Europe • international city drawing people from all over the world <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	
2.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what place did Gaelic have in this area • what place will it have in the future 	2	
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it has been there for hundreds of years • people forget that Gaelic was spoken in Aberdeen • it has a long and important history <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	
3.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attracted many Gaels to the city over the years 	1	
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is not quite as big as Edinburgh or Glasgow • some believe other cities have too many people, lights and cars 	2	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
4.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brought hundreds of Gaels to the city to work • about 1000 Gaels in city at time • close to 5% of the population at time <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	
5.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there was a Gaelic church built there at the end of the eighteenth century • it was built for the Gaels who worked in the city 	2	Restaurant today
6.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there were two universities in Aberdeen at a time when there were only two universities in the whole of England 	1	
7.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is old Gaelic written on the edge of his tomb • this shows that Gaelic was in Aberdeen • Gaelic was important in the area <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	
8.			<p>Book of Deer -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first ever book containing Gaelic writing • written by monks in the 10th Century • mainly written in Latin, but contains Gaelic notes in the margins • these notes are special and important to scholars • book is today in Cambridge University Library • written in the North East of Scotland • the book gives us an insight into life more than 1000 years ago (when Gaelic was a daily language) <p>Any 3 from 7</p>	3	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
9.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the first Gaelic Medium Unit opened in 1991 Gaelic Medium Primary Unit commemorating more than 25 years there were seven pupils when the unit when it started and there are more than 40 now there is a Gaelic nursery and also Gaelic Medium in the high school Gaelic Medium Education has created a new generation of fluent speakers in the North East <p>Any 3 from 5</p>	3	
10.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the wheel has turned for Gaelic in Aberdeen, there is hope for the language to survive in the city (or similar) 	1	

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance									
11.		<p>This is a discursive and informative piece of writing on the status of the Gaelic language in the Aberdeen area through the centuries.</p> <p>The writer argues that Gaelic has always had a place in the history of Aberdeen. The view that Gaelic has no connection with the Aberdeen area is acknowledged and clear counter-arguments are presented.</p> <p>Examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • success of Gaelic Medium Education • Gaelic on Tomb or Bishop Elphinstone • The Book of Deer written 1000 years ago in the North East • Rubislaw Quarry • Gaelic Lane • Gaelic church in the city • Gaels moving to Aberdeen for work and Education through the generations <p>On the whole a clear case is presented for the presence of the language in the Aberdeenshire area.</p> <p>The writer uses a number of rhetorical questions to emphasise the status of Gaelic.</p> <p>There are a number of facts and statistics used to support the writer's position.</p>	7	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pegged marks</th> <th>Criteria</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7 OR 5</td> <td>The candidate provides a clear, concise and reflective answer, drawing inferences which are entirely appropriate, analytical and which demonstrate a sophisticated and accurate reading of the text. The answer clearly relates to the advice given in the Expected responses column, or any other equally appropriate response.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 OR 1</td> <td>The candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of appropriate inferencing skills. The candidate may, however, tend to supply information from the text with little attempt to draw inferences.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>The candidate's answer simply provides information to be found in the text with no attempt to draw inferences.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Pegged marks	Criteria	7 OR 5	The candidate provides a clear, concise and reflective answer, drawing inferences which are entirely appropriate, analytical and which demonstrate a sophisticated and accurate reading of the text. The answer clearly relates to the advice given in the Expected responses column, or any other equally appropriate response.	3 OR 1	The candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of appropriate inferencing skills. The candidate may, however, tend to supply information from the text with little attempt to draw inferences.	0	The candidate's answer simply provides information to be found in the text with no attempt to draw inferences.
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Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
12.	<p>Translate the underlined section into English: (lines 45-51)</p> <p><i>Thachair rud sònraichte.....ann am Bràigh Mhàrr.</i></p>	20	<p>The translation into English is allocated 20 marks. The text for translation will be divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks, which will be awarded according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English. In assessing the candidate's performance, the descriptions detailed below will be used. Each sense unit will be awarded one of the marks shown.</p> <p>2 - Good: Essential information and relevant details are understood and conveyed clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English</p> <p>1 - Satisfactory: Essential information is understood and conveyed clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. The key message is conveyed in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English</p> <p>0 - Unsatisfactory: The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential information.</p>

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 1 <i>Thachair rud sònraichte</i>	Something specific happened		
Unit 2 <i>a thug buaidh mhòr air a’ Ghàidhlig ann an Alba ann an 1872</i>	which had a great impact on Gaelic in Scotland in 1872		
Unit 3 <i>nuair a thàinig Achd Foghlam a-steach.</i>	when the Education Act came in (to being).		
Unit 4 <i>Thuir an Achd seo gun robh e riatanach do chloinn</i>	This Act said that it was compulsory for children		
Unit 5 <i>air feadh na dùthcha a bhith a’ faighinn foghlam</i>	throughout the country to receive an education		
Unit 6 <i>ach cha robh e ceadaichte dhan chloinn a bhith a’ cleachdadh Gàidhlig.</i>	but it was not permitted for the children to use Gaelic.		
Unit 7 <i>’S ann a bha a’ chlann air am peanasachadh ma bha iad ga bruidhinn anns an sgoil</i>	The children were punished if they were speaking it in school		

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
<p>Unit 8</p> <p><i>agus tha buaidh na h-Achd air leantainn tro na linntean.</i></p>	<p>and the effect of the Act has continued throughout the centuries.</p>		
<p>Unit 9</p> <p><i>Ged nach eil fios againn le cinnt cuin a sguir Gàidhlig a bhith na cànan làitheil ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain,</i></p>	<p>Although we do not know for sure when Gaelic ceased to be a daily language in Aberdeenshire</p>		
<p>Unit 10</p> <p><i>chaochail an tè mu dheireadh a bha a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig sgìre Obar Dheathain ann an 1984 ann am Bràigh Mhàrr.</i></p>	<p>the last female speaker of Aberdeenshire Gaelic died in Braemar in 1984.</p>		

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]