



National
Qualifications
2025

2025 Gaelic (Learners)

Reading

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

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General marking principles for Higher Gaelic (Learners) Reading

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a 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.
- (c) Award a mark for each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions and the answers for each question must come from the item.
- (d) Marks are available as follows
 - (i) The first set of questions (worth 18 marks in total) asks candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. There are generally 1-3 marks available for each question.
 - (ii) The penultimate question is the overall purpose question, and candidates must identify the overall purpose of the text and draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 2 marks available for reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged mark descriptors (2/1/0) and associated commentary are available, along with further guidance, in the detailed marking instructions.
 - (iii) The last question is the translation. For this question, candidates must translate the underlined section of the text. The section for translation is divided into five sense units. For each sense unit, award 2, 1 or 0 marks: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation, and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.
- (e) Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate's answers. Award marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
1.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • countryside • on an island 	2	
2.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeking a more balanced life 	1	
3.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving advice to patients online or on the phone • she phones elderly people at night to remind them to take their pills 	2	She is a nurse.
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • she can choose her hours • spend more time with her children • visits friends through the day <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	
4.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data (entry) administrator • architect • graphic designer <p>Any 1 from 3</p>	1	
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to stop people bothering you 	1	
	(c)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to be flexible to work at any time 	1	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
5.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no need to rent an office easy to communicate/speak with workers company costs reduced workers/employees will do more work 	4	
6.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> company with links to the USA 	1	an American Company
7.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it makes it difficult for young people who want to live/stay in their own community to buy or rent houses 	2	
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivery costs are very/quite expensive 	1	

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
8.		<p>Positive because online learning allows people to ‘live to work’ ‘ag obair airson a bhith beò, seach a bhith beò airson obair. Tha obair bhon dachaigh gar cuideachadh sin a dhèanamh’</p> <p>Positive because companies support people that want to work from home and in the years ahead we will see businesses working completely online with workers based in the Highlands. ‘bidh companaidhean a’ toirt taic do dhaoine a tha ag obair aig an taigh air feadh na Gàidhealtachd.’</p> <p>Negative because the cost of living is higher in remote areas. ‘Tha cosgaisean-beatha nas àirde ann an àitichean iomallach a leithid connadh, dealan agus biadh.’</p> <p>Accept other suitable answers.</p>	2	<p>Award 2 marks where the candidate provides a clear answer, with justification that shows an accurate reading of the text.</p> <p>Award 1 mark where the candidate simply provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of some justification.</p> <p>Award 0 marks where the candidate simply provides information to be found in the text by simply re-stating answers to previous questions.</p>

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
9.	<p>Translate into English:</p> <p><i>Tuigidh tu . . . sin a dhèanamh.</i> (lines 36-39)</p>	10	<p>The translation into English is allocated 10 marks. The text for translation is divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks. Award marks according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English.</p> <p>Award a mark for each sense unit, as follows</p> <p>2 marks - good The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English.</p> <p>1 mark - satisfactory The candidate understands and conveys essential information clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. They convey the key message in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English.</p> <p>0 marks - unsatisfactory The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.</p>

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
<p>Unit 1</p> <p><i>Tuigidh tu carson a bhios daoine a' gluasad air falbh</i></p>	<p>You can/will understand why people move away</p>		
<p>Unit 2</p> <p><i>bho bheatha thrang uallachail an-diugh</i></p>	<p>from busy, stressful lives today</p>		
<p>Unit 3</p> <p><i>gu bhith am measg nam beanntan agus nan lochan bòidheach.</i></p>	<p>to be amongst the mountains and beautiful lochs.</p>		
<p>Unit 4</p> <p><i>Tha e nas fheàrr a bhith ag obair airson a bhith beò, seach a bhith beò airson obair.</i></p>	<p>It is better to work to live rather than live to work.</p> <p>Also accept:</p> <p>It is better to work to be alive, rather than to be alive to work.</p>		
<p>Unit 5</p> <p><i>Tha obair bhon dachaigh gar cuideachadh sin a dhèanamh.</i></p>	<p>Working from home helps us to do that.</p>		

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]