National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Gaelic (Learners)

Reading

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

The information in this document may be reproduced in support of Qualifications Scotland qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is reproduced, Qualifications Scotland must be clearly acknowledged as the source. If it is to be reproduced for any other purpose, written permission must be obtained from Qualifications Scotland.

Qualifications Scotland
Teisteanasan Alba

© Qualifications Scotland 2026

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.			• we should eat breakfast, lunch and dinner each day • which foods are healthy and which foods are not	**2**	
2.	(a)		• 10% of people can't cook	**1**	
	(b)		• this number rises to one in seven (who can't cook)	**1**	
	(c)		• this number is **growing** to **almost/about (or similar)** a quarter (who can't cook)	**1**	
3.			• it is cheaper • it is **usually (or similar)** healthier • you can choose what and when you eat **Any 2 from 3**	**2**	
4.			• wash vegetables • mix things in a bowl • taste the things they make **Any 2 of 3**	**2**	
5.			• they will cook healthy food • they will not eat too much fast food	**2**	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
6.			• around (or similar) twenty million are sold in the world • the number goes up every year	**2**	
7.			• **easier** than ordering food to your house • you don't have to leave the house • no-one will see you if you make a mistake or two	**3**	
8.			• encourage teenagers to cook cheap and simple food	**1**	
9.			• your skills will last all your life • you could live a bit longer	**1**	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
10.			• very positive • they mention lots of positive aspects • it is cheaper and healthier • it has a positive impact on lifestyle • it gives you lifelong skills • you may live longer if you cook more often than eating out	**2**	Award **2 marks** where the candidate provides a clear answer, with justification that shows an accurate reading of the text. Award **1 mark** where the candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of some justification. Award **0 marks** where the candidate simply provides information to be found in the text by simply re-stating answers to previous questions

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
11.			**Translate into English:** *Tha sinn . . . faisg air làimh* (lines 7-11)	**10**	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. Award a mark for each sense unit, as follows **2 marks – good** The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English. **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. **0 marks – unsatisfactory** The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 1 *Tha sinn air ar cuairteachadh le roghainnean bìdh a h-uile latha.*	We are surrounded by food choices every day.		
Unit 2 *Cha robh e a-riamh cho furasta bìadh òrdachadh le companaidhean mar* Just Eat *agus* Deliveroo	It has never been so easy to order food with companies like Just Eat and Deliveroo		
Unit 3 *a' tabhann diofar bìadhhan chun en dorais ann am beagan mhionaidean.*	offering different (types of) food to the door in a few minutes.		
Unit 4 *Tha cafaidhean, taighean-bìdh agus bùthan-bìdh air gach oisean anns na bailtean mòra.*	There are cafes, restaurants and food shops on every corner in the big towns/cities.		
Unit 5 *The e soilleir gu bheil sinn cho dèidheil air bìadh a tha faisg air làimh.*	It is clear that we are so fond of food which is close at hand/nearby.		

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]