

# HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

## The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Modern Languages

Cantonese, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Mandarin (Simplified),  
Mandarin (Traditional), Spanish, Urdu

MODERN  
LANGUAGES

CfE  
HIGHER

2  
UNITS

### UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE USING LANGUAGE

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

### PERFORMANCE + TWO QUESTION PAPERS



### Skills

Learners will be able to:

- read, listen, talk and write in a modern language
- understand and use a modern language
- develop the language skills of translation
- apply knowledge and understanding of a modern language



### Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- develop detailed and complex language skills in the meaningful real-life contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture
- develop skills in reading, listening, talking and writing
- understand how language works
- use different media effectively for learning and communication
- use language to communicate ideas and information



### Assessment

- To gain a Higher in a Modern Language, learners must pass the two Units and the Course Assessment (Performance and Question Papers for 100 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment consists of a Performance (30 marks) with two sections and two Question Papers (exams for 60 marks, see below). The Performance is marked internally and the Question Papers are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Modern Languages are graded from A to D or as No Award.



#### Paper 1 Reading and Directed Writing

Section 1 Reading	Questions in English about a written text in the modern language	30 marks
Section 2 Writing	One written text in the modern language in response to questions on a prepared topic	10 marks

#### Paper 2 Listening and Writing (Listening and Literature for Gaelic Learners)

Section 1 Listening	One monologue and one conversation, with questions in English	20 marks
Section 2 Writing	One piece of writing in the modern language, on a topic relating to the Listening Section	10 marks

**Performance** Two sections A presentation and conversation, both in the modern language 30 marks



**Progression** Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Modern Languages: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47909.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47909.html)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)

Further Information for Parents and Learners Information on assessment, skills,

progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

[www.parentforumscotland.org](http://www.parentforumscotland.org)



the National  
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