

# NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

## The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Modern Languages National 5

Modern Languages National 5 is offered in the following: Cantonese, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Mandarin (Simplified or Traditional), Spanish, Urdu

MODERN  
LANGUAGES  
LANGUAGES

NATIONAL  
5

2  
UNITS

### UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGES

Receptive skills – listening and reading in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

### USING LANGUAGES

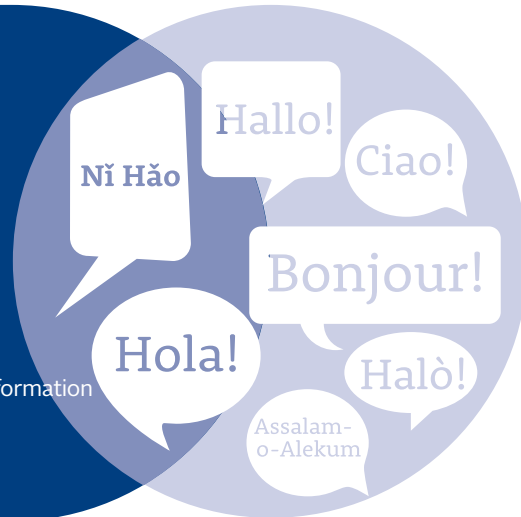
Productive skills – talking and writing in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

### COURSE ASSESSMENT: TWO QUESTION PAPERS + PERFORMANCE

## What skills will my child develop?

- reading, listening, talking and writing in a modern language
- the ability to understand and use a modern language
- applying knowledge of a modern language
- applying grammatical knowledge
- plan, research and apply detailed, more complex language skills
- the development of cultural awareness
- develop creative and critical thinking
- develop literacy skills and reflect on how this relates to English
- develop an understanding of how language works
- using different media effectively for learning and communication
- using detailed, more complex language to communicate ideas and information
- explore the interconnected nature of languages
- analysis and evaluation eg defining the purpose of a text
- dictionary skills



## WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, using feedback, practising extended writing in timed conditions
- A blend of classroom approaches including group and class discussion, game-based learning, websites, interactive tasks using IT, video conferencing, audio recordings
- Collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities eg paired reading, 'give one, get one' and jigsaw activities; holding debates; links with other curricular areas
- Space for personalisation and choice: learners can choose their topics for their Performance as well as topics within the Units
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking; reading; writing.

## ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (two Question Papers and a Performance)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be digital or spoken presentations, discussions, extended writing, notes, multi-modal texts or podcasts. A portfolio to show progress through the units may be prepared
- The Course Assessment consists of two Question Papers (exams marked by the SQA), Paper 1 (reading and writing) and Paper 2 (listening). The Performance is a presentation followed by questions (internally assessed in accordance with SQA guidelines). The Assessment is graded A to D.

## DISCUSSION IN THE CLASSROOM

We are lucky to live in a beautiful part of Scotland which has a strong tourism industry. Our project was to prepare an information leaflet for German visitors to our area. As part of our research, we invited the manager of the local Tourist Information Centre in to our German class, to find out what kind of information visitors needed and to look at the leaflets written in German that were already available. We realised that there was no information for German young people coming to our area. We worked in groups, having agreed section headings, and took one section each to research and write up. We were really delighted when the Tourist Information Centre printed up copies of our leaflet – we can be sure that young German visitors will certainly feel welcome now!

National 5 progresses onto Modern Languages Higher

For more detailed course information:

SQA: Modern Languages National 5: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45671.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45671.html)

Education Scotland: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp)

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)



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