# Scots Language Award level 6: Understanding and Communication

## Outcome 1

### Mary, Queen of Scots by Dr Dauvit Horsbroch

*This excerpt, from the ‘Hoo Mary Rang’ section of the Scots Language Centre’s comprehensive text on Mary, Queen of Scots, provides a brief history of Mary’s reign over Scotland. You can read more* [*here*](https://www.scotslanguage.com/articles/node/id/322)*.*

Mary I wis born in Lithgae palace in 1542 an becam queen o Scotland jist a week efter whan her faither King Jeems V dee’d. She wis the first undisputit queen that rang in thir islands, an the first cryed Mary forby. The Inglis attemptit tae force a mairrage treaty atween Mary an thair Prince Edwart, howpin tae hae owerance o Scotland throu her, but the Scots made a treaty wi Hendrie II o Fraunce an trystit Mary tae Hendrie’s son Frauncis. Syne, in 1548, she wis sent tae Fraunce tae bide. Atween hauns, while Mary wis awa, Scotland wis ruled on her behauf wi her kizzen Jeems Hamiltoun erle o Arran, an syne wi her Frainch mither Mary o Guise-Lorraine.

Awready queen o Scots in her ain richt, in 1559 Mary becam queen o Fraunce forby, alang wi her man Frauncis. Noo thay pit forrit claim tae the croun o Ingland on the grunds that Mary wis the richtfae Catholic heir. But in 1560 Frauncis dee’d. Thon same year Scots releegious reformers claucht pouer throu uphaud fae the Inglis – the Soothrons wantin tae bring aboot regime chenge an ding doun Frainch influence. A pairlament held in Embra, that richtly-speakin wis unlawfae, noo declared that Scotland wis a Protestant kintra.

### Activity 1: Audience and Purpose

Answer these questions to demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of, and audience for, this text.

1. Which type of audience is this excerpt suitable for? Pick **two** answers.

People interested in the history of the monarchy

People interested in the death of Mary, Queen of Scots

People interested in the history of religion in Scotland

People interested in the Battle of Langside

1. What is the purpose of this text?

To provoke thought about the untimely death of Mary, Queen of Scots

To debate whether Mary, Queen of Scots should have married a French man.

To provide information about the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots.

To provide information about the history of the union.

### Activity 2: Main Ideas

Answer these questions to demonstrate an understanding of the main ideas of this text.

1. How did Mary become Queen of Scots?

She married into royalty

She was crowned Queen of Scots due to her alliance with France

She became Queen of Scots following bereavement

She became Queen of Scots due to her religion

1. Why did people in England wish for Mary to marry Prince Edward?

So that England could gain control over Scotland

To improve relations with France and Scotland

To ensure religious diversity within the monarchy

To ensure that Scotland was ruled fairly

1. What was James Hamilton’s involvement?

He was complicit in overthrowing the crown

He arranged Mary’s marriage to Francis

He was Mary’s second husband

He ruled Scotland in Mary’s absence

1. What thwarted Mary’s plans to become Queen of England?

Religious reform, supported by English people.

Mary died before she could become Queen of England

Mary’s refusal to unite England and Scotland

The death of Mary’s father, King James V.

### Activity 3: Grammar

Answer these questions to demonstrate an understanding of the meaning and effect of the language used.

1. Look at the following words: ‘undisputit, attemptit, trystit.
2. What is the English equivalent of the ‘-it’ suffix?

-ing

-ed

-tion

-ise

b) What does the -it suffix tell us?

That the verb is in past tense

That the verb is in present tense

It indicates possession of something

It indicates the absence of something

1. Look at the word ‘wantin’. Which grammatical feature of Scots does this word demonstrate?

It demonstrates the absence of apostrophes

It demonstrates how the present participle of a verb is formed

It demonstrates how the past tense of a verb is formed

It demonstrates how pronouns are used

### Activity 4: Connotations and Inferences

Answer these questions to demonstrate you understand the connotations and inferences of the word choice used.

Read this sentence again: **Thon same year Scots releegious reformers claucht pouer throu uphaud fae the Inglis – the Soothrons wantin tae bring aboot regime chenge an ding doun Frainch influence.**

1. What does the word ‘claucht’ tell us about the way in which reformers gained power?

It was very subtle

It was relaxed

It was a long drawn out process

It was a struggle

1. What does the phrase, ‘**pouer throu uphaud fae the Inglis’** suggest about the influence of the Scots reformers?

They were hugely influential and managed to convince even the English

They were globally influential, especially in England

They were moderately influential and supported the English

They had little influence without support from the English

1. a) What are the connotations of ‘ding doun’? Select **two** of the following:

care force subtlety collusion destruction

1. What does the phrase ‘ding doun’ tell us about the English people?

They were determined

They were desperate

They were cooperative

They were reluctant

## Outcome 2

Watch the Mary Queen of Scots film trailer [here](http://www.universalpictures.co.uk/micro/mary-queen-of-scots).

## Option A

Write a discursive piece entitled, ‘Why does the story of ‘Mary, Queen of Scots’ continually capture the imagination?’

## Option B

Write a dramatic monologue from the perspective of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Your piece should be written in Scots, and you must ensure that you:

* select appropriate ideas;
* use a suitable format – for example, paragraphs and/or subheadings;
* demonstrate that you know Scots vocabulary and have an understanding of Scots grammar.