



Scots Language Award overview

Introduction

The Scots language is the language of lowland Scotland, the Orkney and Shetland Islands and parts of Northern Ireland. Its origins lie in the unique historical mixture of Old English, Old Norse, Latin, French, Dutch and Gaelic that was spoken by settlers and immigrants in lowland Scotland and the Northern Isles. It is a sister language to English – whose Germanic roots it shares – and it also has close affinities with Scandinavian languages like Norwegian and Danish. Scots - along with Cornish, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh – is one of the distinct regional languages of the United Kingdom; as recognised by the Scottish and UK Governments, and the Council of Europe.

The *Scots Language Award* will be available at SQCF levels 3, 4, 5 and 6 from August 2014. It will give learners the opportunity to study the history and development of the Scots language and will help them to develop their ability to understand, and communicate in, Scots. As with other SQA Awards, it will reflect the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

Why deliver the Award?

For those who use the language today, the study of Scots - including its history, development and contemporary use - will develop their ability to communicate, think critically and use their own language creatively. They will also gain a deeper insight into their own history and cultural heritage.

For those who do not already use the language, the study of Scots will enhance their understanding of how language works, and their ability to communicate and use language creatively. It will also enhance their understanding of Scotland's history, people and culture.

Who will the Award suit?

The Award will be relevant to a wide range of learners who have an interest in language in general and/or a particular interest in the Scots language.

Young people and adult learners studying in Scotland (in secondary schools, further education institutions or community learning and development settings) may find the Award of particular interest. It will provide opportunities for these learners to develop their understanding of, and ability to use, the Scots language in a contemporary context. This, in turn, will enhance their understanding of the cultural, linguistic and literary heritage of the country in which they live.

Entry Requirements

Entry is at the discretion of the centre. However relevant experiences and outcomes in Languages and/or Social Studies may provide an appropriate foundation for the Awards.

Progression

The Awards or their Units may provide progression to:

- English Courses or Units
- Modern Languages Course or Units
- History Courses or Units
- the Scottish Studies Award or its Units
- training or employment

Approval

The Award will be auto-approved for secondary schools. Centres with devolved authority may seek approval through their own internal approval process. Centres which do not have devolved authority will need to come forward for approval and contact SQA's Business Development Team for guidance on completing the combined CA1/SA1 form.

Content

At each level the Award consists of two mandatory Units. The requirements for each Unit will be detailed in the relevant Unit Specifications. A summary of both Units is given below.

Scots Language: History and Development (SCQF levels 3-6)

The purpose of this Unit is to allow learners to develop an understanding of the history and development of the Scots language, from its origins to the present day. This will include knowledge of its relationship to other languages.

Scots Language: Understanding and Communicating (SCQF levels 3-6)

The purpose of this Unit is to allow learners to develop their ability to understand, and communicate in, the Scots language. This will involve listening to or reading texts in Scots, and creating and producing written or oral communications in Scots.