

HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)



ESOL FOR EVERYDAY LIFE
+ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONAL UNITS:

- **ESOL IN WORK-RELATED CONTEXTS**
- **ESOL IN STUDY-RELATED CONTEXTS**



PERFORMANCE + QUESTION PAPER



Skills

Learners will be able to:

- read, write, listen, and speak in English
- understand and use English language, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- apply knowledge and understanding of the English language



Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- develop skills in reading and writing, listening, and speaking, which are essential for learning, life and work
- develop their ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings and respond to those of other people
- use different media effectively for learning and communication
- develop an understanding of how language works and use language to communicate ideas and information in English



Assessment

- To gain Higher English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), learners must pass the mandatory Unit and one optional Unit and the Course Assessment (Performance and Question Paper 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) and a Question Paper (exam for 70 marks) which has three sections (see below). The evidence of the Performance and the Question Paper are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher ESOL is graded from A to D or as No Award.



Section A

Specimen Paper

Listening

www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ESOLListeningSQPH.pdf

30 minutes, 20 marks

Section B and C

Specimen Paper

Reading and writing

www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ESOLReadingandWritingSQPH.pdf

2 hours 10 minutes, 50 marks

Performance

Speaking and Listening

A discussion in English on a chosen topic with questions and interaction which will be recorded.

8-10 minutes, 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 ESOL: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47905.html

[Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile](#)

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



the National Parent Forum of Scotland

www.parentforumscotland.org

enquiries@parentforumscotland.org

[parentforumscotland](#)

[parentforumscot](#)

