

# SGEAMA MEASaidH A' CHOMUINN GHÀIDHEALACH

## ASSESSMENT SCHEME OF AN COMUNN GÀIDHEALACH

### Introduction

The constitution of An Comunn Gàidhealach states that the aims of the Association shall be to support and develop all aspects of the Gaelic language, culture, history and heritage at local, national and international levels. Methods of fulfilling the stated aims include the promoting of the study and development of Gaelic language, literature, music, drama and all other related art forms.

In fulfilment of its objectives An Comunn shall organise and promote the Royal National Mòd.

(Adapted extract from An Comunn Gàidhealach Constitution – Para 2.1)

It is clear from the above that part of the purpose of the Royal National Mòd is to promote the study and development of Gaelic. In this connection, An Comunn has devised a scheme for the assessment of Gaelic for National Mòd competitors in the senior sections. This is similar to the old scheme but with important differences. For a detailed description of the new scheme please see the Learners' Guide. The main differences are 1) that there are now **sample conversations** to let you see what standard of conversation is expected for each level and 2) the assessors will have a **check list** to ensure the objectivity and fairness of the assessment.

Below you will also find detailed descriptions of what you are expected to know for each level. Most of these descriptions, although not all, are exemplified in the sample conversations, to which you should refer.

### NOTES:

1. The Learners' Guide sets out guidelines regarding attainment in respect of all the levels.
2. It is expected that learners will make continuous progress in the language by advancing through the levels.
3. Competitors must attain Level 3 standard to be issued with a bronze card.
4. On successful completion of Level 7, a competitor will be issued with a silver card.
5. Competitors must attain Level 7 standard before entry to the Silver Pendant competitions will be accepted.
6. A competitor who is able to converse fluently (Level 8 and beyond) with assessors will be issued with a gold card.
7. Assessment will be organised in competitors' areas, subject to demand; further details can be obtained from An Comunn's offices.
8. An Comunn Gàidhealach reserves the right to refuse entry to competitions when no apparent progress in the language is being made.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR EACH LEVEL

(See the sample conversations for what is likely to be used in the assessments)

### Bronze Card

#### Levels 1-3

##### Level 1

**General Outcomes:** **1.** Greeting someone **2.** Giving your address **3.** Discussing languages **4.** Asking for drinks **5.** Expressing an opinion **6.** Discussing children **7.** Telling the time **8.** Discussing jobs

**Function Descriptions:** **1.** Greeting someone throughout the day; Asking how someone is & responding; Saying what the weather is like **2.** Saying where you live; Giving more details; Asking where someone is from & responding **3.** Saying you speak a language; Asking whether someone speaks a language & responding; Saying you understand **4.** Asking for coffee, etc; Asking what someone wants & responding **5.** Saying you like/don't like something; Asking whether someone likes something & responding; Asking whether someone enjoyed something & responding **6.** Asking someone whether they have children & responding **7.** Asking the time & responding; Asking when something is opening /closing /arriving /leaving **8.** Saying what job you do & where you work; Saying you're not working; Asking people about their jobs

##### Level 2

**General Outcomes:** **1.** Taking your leave of someone **2.** Giving an excuse **3.** Asking / saying where someone is going **4.** Discussing when you're going somewhere **5.** Discussing how you're going somewhere **6.** Saying where you've been **7.** Coping with language difficulties **8.** Talking about the family **9.** Giving instructions **10.** Discussing the home **11.** Dealing with money **12.** Asking what others have and saying what you have yourself **13.** Describing things

**Function Descriptions:** **1.** Saying goodbye; Saying goodnight; Excusing yourself; Saying you have to go & responding; Saying you will see someone later **2.** Saying you are tired/in a hurry/going to work/it's late/there's a film on TV/that the bus is coming **3.** Asking where someone is going and responding; Saying

what place you're going to; Asking whether someone is going somewhere & responding **4.** Asking when; saying which day or when **5.** Asking how; Saying how; Asking / discussing when **6.** Asking where someone went (country, etc); Saying where you were; Islands; Telling the time of year; Asking where someone was recently or in general and responding **7.** Saying 'pardon?'; Asking someone to slow down; Asking for repetition; Asking whether someone understands; Saying you do understand; Saying you don't know; Asking how to say something in Gaelic **8.** Names of members of the family; Saying 'my ...'; Telling the jobs people do; Asking what jobs people have **9.** Telling someone: to go/come/to come in/to stop or wait/to have a rest/to take it easy; Urging someone on; Be quiet, look & listen; Telling someone: to do something/not to do something; Saying not to worry; Telling someone: not to bother you/to watch out/they don't have to/to ignore or not bother about something; get up!/sleep well!/go to sleep! **10.** The names of rooms; Saying 'in the ...'; Name of contents & furniture; Saying what rooms there are; Telling what a house is like; moving around the house; upstairs and downstairs **11.** Asking how much something is; Names of food & drink; Pennies & Pounds; Making payments; Dealing with change; Larger amounts; Asking whether an article is available & responding; Expensive & inexpensive **12.** Asking whether someone has something & responding; asking what someone has; Asking about other people & responding **13.** Telling their colour; Telling the size

### Level 3

**General Outcomes:** **1.** Describing people & things **2.** Asking someone if they know someone **3.** Remembering someone/something **4.** Asking someone's opinion & responding **5.** Telling what you're doing **6.** Discussing a day off **7.** Discussing feelings **8.** Discussing what's been done **9.** Discussing your life/career **10.** Discussing everyday routine **11.** Asking/giving/refusing permission

**Function Descriptions:** **1.** Asking what a person or thing looks like; Saying what a person or thing looks like; Describing a person's hair/beard/moustache; Describing a person's eyes; Saying what a person is like; saying a person is like someone else **2.** Asking: who it is/whether they know the person; Saying you know/don't know someone **3.** Asking if someone remembers **4.** Asking what someone thinks: in general/of a person/of an object; Expressing strong disapproval **5.** Asking what someone is doing; Saying what you're doing; Saying

what someone else is doing; Saying you're doing nothing or not much; Saying you're coming home **6.** Asking if someone had a day off & responding; Asking where the person was; Saying where you were; Telling when & how long you were off; Asking/saying what you were doing; Asking/saying when a person came; Adding emphasis **7.** Asking how a person feels & responding; Asking what's wrong; Saying something is sore **8.** Asking someone what they did; Saying whom you spoke to; Saying what you played; Saying what you bought; Then ...; Saying what job/activity you did or what you made; asking whether a person has seen someone/something **9.** Saying where you were born & brought up; Saying where you met someone; Marriage: asking when/saying when; Asking where/saying where; Saying you're not married; Starting things: asking when; Saying when; Asking where; Learning things: asking when; Leaving: asking when; Finding something: asking where; Saying what you found **10.** Morning activities – asking someone when they do something: get up/leaves the house/go to work/go to the office/go to school/go off to school; Saying when; Mealtimes: asking whether someone takes breakfast & responding; Asking when; Saying when; Asking how someone gets/goes to work; Asking what someone else does in the evening; Saying what you do **11.** Asking permission; Asking if you may play; To ask if you may get something; To ask if you may use something; To ask if you may go somewhere; Giving permission; Refusing permission; Giving reasons for refusing

## **Silver Card**

### **Levels 4-7**

#### **Level 4**

**General Outcomes:** **1.** Dealing with people **2.** Ordering food and drink **3.** Expressing needs **4.** Giving directions **5.** Describing/planning a holiday **6.** Talking about abilities **7.** Stating intentions & expectations **8.** Expressing hopes **9.** Exchanging news

**Function Descriptions:** **1.** Asking to speak to someone; Saying a person may/may not speak to someone; Requesting to see someone; Saying a person may/may not see someone; Saying you would like to speak to someone; Saying you would like to see someone; Giving reasons for not being able to see someone; Asking when someone will be: free/back/in/ready; Saying when; Asking where you'll meet; Saying where; Asking where someone will be; Saying where **2.** Asking if someone is hungry; Saying you are/someone is hungry; Asking if someone is thirsty; Saying you are/someone is/thirsty; Asking what someone will have to eat or drink; Saying what food or drink you will have; Saying what someone else will have; Saying the food is ready; Asking what food or drink a person would like & replying; Saying you've had enough; Asking if someone will have more & saying no; Asking for more & replying; asking for a table in a restaurant & responding **3.** Asking whether someone must do something & responding; Telling someone they must do something; Saying one doesn't have to do something; Responding to a question; Saying what must be done; Having to put something on; Giving reasons; Saying what must be taken; Having to hurry; Having to buy something; Asking when something must happen ... and replying **4.** Asking where a place is; Telling where a particular place is; Saying something is on your right/your left; Telling someone to turn left or right; Asking how to get to a place; Saying what road to take; Telling how far away something is; Telling a person to carry on; Giving reasons for not being able to help; saying where someone or something is **5.** Saying you would like to go on holiday; Asking where someone is going ... and replying; Saying where you would like to go; Discussing when to go; Discussing how long the holiday will be; Asking/telling when you're going; Asking/telling if someone else is going; Being asked/telling where you're staying; Arriving & coming back; Discussing where to stay for the night; Booking accommodation; Asking how long someone is staying; Saying how long; Asking/telling what a room costs; Buying tickets **6.** Asking if someone can do something; Saying yes/no; Saying you can/cannot do something; Saying someone else can do something; Adding emphasis; Saying something is easy; Saying something is difficult; Giving reasons; Making requests & replying **7.** Asking what someone intends to do; Stating intentions; Asking when someone intends to go/come back & replying; Saying you intended/did not intend something; Being reminded of your intentions ... replying; Making a suggestion; Expressing expectations; Asking who or what someone expects ... and replying; Saying you didn't expect

someone **8.** Hoping something is/is not ... and responding; Hoping something was/was not ... and responding; Hoping something will be/will not be ... and responding; Hoping someone will enjoy something ... and responding **9.** Asking for someone's news; Saying you have little or no news; Telling good news; Saying you're happy to hear something; Other responses to good news; Telling bad news; Saying you are sorry to hear something; Other responses to bad news; Telling that someone had an accident; Asking whether someone heard about something & responding; Asking whether someone got something & responding

## Level 5

**General Outcomes:** **1.** Arranging to go out **2.** Buying clothes **3.** Asking about transport **4.** Stating preferences **5.** Making comparisons **6.** Debating and arguing **7.** Talking about things **8.** Describing country pursuits **9.** Talking about what you ought to do

**Function Descriptions:** **1.** Asking someone if they are going out ... & responding; Asking what they are doing ... responding; Asking/suggesting where to go; Suggesting where to go ... responding ; Suggesting when; Telling someone what to wear; Saying someone is smartly dressed **2.** Asking/saying what you're looking for; Saying you would like to purchase a particular item; Asking if you would like to try them on ... responding; Asking if you may try something on ... responding; Asking for another size ... responding; Commenting on style and fashion **3.** Asking about forms of transport ... and responding; Asking where to get transport ... and responding; Discussing frequency; Asking where a bus or train stops; Checking arrival/departures of transport; Asking someone how they're travelling ... and responding; asking how long it takes **4.** Asking what someone prefers; Adding emphasis; Which one?; Saying what you prefer; Adding emphasis; Asking what other people prefer; Asking if someone is sure and responding; Expressing strong dislike; Asking what someone would prefer ... and responding; Saying that you would prefer one thing to another **5.** Saying something is better/much better; Asking if something looks better; Asking if something is better than something; Saying something is worse; Worse than; Saying something is cheaper; Cheaper than; Saying something is dearer; Dearer than; Saying someone or something is

younger; Younger than; Saying someone is older; Older than; Saying someone or something is bigger; Bigger than; Saying someone or something is smaller; Smaller than; Saying something is longer; Longer than; Saying something is shorter; Shorter than **6.** Saying something is or is not right; Saying something is or is not wrong; Saying something is or is not true; Agreeing and disagreeing; Telling the truth; Saying you think something is or is not the case; Emphasising a response; Stop arguing!; Expressing disbelief **7.** Saying you enjoy/don't enjoy something; Asking someone if they enjoy something ... and responding; Saying someone else enjoys/does not enjoy something; Asking if someone else enjoys something ... and responding; Asking someone how they enjoy something ... and responding; Asking how someone enjoys something ... and responding; Saying you hope someone will enjoy something; Asking someone if they enjoyed something ... and responding **8.** Suggesting where to camp ... and responding; Asking what the best place is for fishing; Suggesting places to fish; Great expectations!; Asking someone if they caught anything & responding; Asking the name of a landmark ... and responding; Saying you intend to go hillwalking; Discussing the height of mountains; Saying you would like to go to the beach or shore; By or beside the sea; Seaside activities **9.** Telling someone they ought/ought not to do something; Asking someone if they ought to do something ... and responding; Asking if you ought to do something; asking if someone else ought to do something ... and responding; Saying you'd better do something; Telling someone they'd better do something; Reporting injuries; Reporting a rescue; Report that someone was taken to hospital

## Level 6

**General Outcomes:** **1.** Trying things **2.** Telling people things **3.** Making requests **4.** Winning & losing **5.** Talking about the body **6.** Talking about health **7.** Talking about the senses **8.** Talking about consumer issues **9.** Talking about job prospects

**Function Descriptions:** **1.** Telling someone to try something ; Try not to!; Asking someone if they'd like to try something; Asking someone if they're trying to do something; Saying what you're trying to do; Saying you will try/not try something; Saying you tried/didn't try something; Asking someone if they tried something; Asking how someone got on and responding **2.** Telling

someone to tell you something; Asking someone if they're going to tell something & responding; Asking someone if they'll tell something & responding; Saying that you can't tell; Asking someone if you told them something & responding; asking someone if they were told something & responding; Asking when someone is going to tell something; Asking what someone is going to tell & responding **3.** Asking someone to go somewhere and responding; Asking someone to get something for you & responding; asking someone to give someone something & responding; Asking someone to do something & responding **4.** Asking someone if they won/lost & responding; Asking someone if they won something ... and replying; Asking if someone else won/lost & responding; Asking what someone won & responding; Asking what someone else got & responding; Asking what prize someone got; Saying what prize was received **5.** The head; The body; Asking what happened or what went wrong; Telling someone that you hurt yourself; Telling someone you cut yourself; Saying something is painful; Asking if an injury is getting better & responding; Telling how you were injured; Telling how someone else was injured; Telling what the result of a fall was **6.** Asking about someone's state of health ... & replying; Telling someone what is good for them ... and what is not good for them; Telling someone what is bad for them; Suggesting healthy activities; Telling someone not to consume too much; Saying what someone shouldn't consume; Telling someone not to do too much; Telling someone to take a rest; Saying someone else should take a rest; asking about someone's lifestyle; Advice about lifestyle; Stop doing it or suffer the consequences **7.** Asking if someone can see something; Saying you can see something; Saying you cannot see something; asking someone if they can see you; Saying you can see someone; Asking someone if they can hear someone; Saying you can/cannot hear something; Asking someone if they can hear you; Saying you can hear someone; Asking someone if they can feel something; Saying you can feel something; Saying you cannot feel anything **8.** Saying something is worth money; Saying something is well made; Saying how long something will do; Saying how long something will do someone else; Saying something is coming apart; Suggesting that something can be mended; Asking for a replacement and responding; Asking for your money back; Praising the service; Criticising the service **9.** Asking someone what they'd like to do; Asking someone if they would like to do a particular job; saying what job you would like to do; Saying what type of work you would like; Asking someone what they're interested in;

Saying what you're interested in; Saying something is a good opportunity

## Level 7

**General Outcomes:** **1.** Dealing with money & counting large amounts **2.** Organising a party **3.** Doing things **4.** Discussing papering & painting **5.** Discussing outdoor activities **6.** Opinions on how things would be **7.** Describing locations **8.** Giving opinions and making suggestions **9.** Conditions and their consequences

**Function Descriptions:** **1.** The numbers 12-39; Counting money; Method 1; Method 2; 40-1,000,000; Counting other items; **2.** The biggest, the smallest, the best; Asking someone if they can do something and responding; Expressing exasperation or irony; Asking if invitations have been sent & responding **3.** Telling someone politely to do something; Making a suggestion; The top or surface of something; Telling someone what they could/couldn't do; The softer the better; The thinner the better, etc; Telling someone to keep hold of something; Describing the speed of a vehicle **4.** How to say 'because'; Saying what you could do; Saying/asking what the length/height/width of something is; Asking if someone can measure something & responding; Saying what someone else can/can't manage to do **5.** Saying something would/wouldn't be worthwhile; Asking if something would be worthwhile & responding; Saying what you could do & responding; Saying you would want or like something; Saying you would not want or like something **6.** Saying something would/would not be; Asking if something would be & responding; Asking what you would do or be; Saying what you would do or be; Saying what you would not do or be; Asking what you and someone else would do or be & responding; Saying what used to be; Saying that you used to do or be something; Saying what you and someone else used to do or be **7.** Saying something is in front of/behind/above/opposite/beside something else; Asking about the position of something or someone **8.** Hoping something would/would not be; Being sure something would/would not be; Saying what one expected would/would not be; Saying what one thinks or thought would be & responding; Stating the conditions under which something would be; Responding 'if you want' to a suggestion; Expressing indifference **9.** Stating conditions and what follows from them; asking two people how they are related & responding; Setting out

the consequences; Stating the conditions which would allow something to be; Stating what might follow if a condition were fulfilled; Asking what would happen if a condition were fulfilled

## **Gold Card**

### **Level 8 and beyond**

Those gaining the Gold Card are expected to be fluent but the assessment will start with a preliminary conversation based on the level 8 outcomes below. See also the sample conversation.

**General Outcomes:** **1.** Requests and suggestions **2.** Food & Drink – discussing possibilities **3.** Getting to know people **4.** Talking about things that have happened **5.** Commenting on things about to happen **6.** Describing things that have happened **7.** Confirming & emphasising things **8.** Describing / discussing customary activities

**Function Descriptions:** **1.** Asking if someone would do something & responding; Asking what one would do in a given situation & responding; Asking if someone would put something somewhere & responding; Asking if someone would take or give you something; Suggesting something would be/would not be the case; Asking if something would be the case & responding; Asking someone to show you something; Asking to be excused; Asking someone if they would take something; Asking someone if they would lift something; Suggesting someone fix something ... and saying what effect it would have; Suggesting that someone lift something and the effect it would have **2.** Asking someone what they would eat & responding; Asking someone if they would eat something & responding; Asking someone what they would drink & responding; Asking someone what particular type of drink they would have & responding; Asking someone if they would drink something & responding; Asking if someone would tell you something & responding; Saying you wouldn't believe it; Asking someone if they would like or enjoy something & responding; Suggesting someone would write something; Saying, although something might ...; Asking for more; Suggesting someone might give you

something; Saying you might lose something **3.** Asking someone if they know someone else & responding; Saying or suggesting that someone knows someone else & responding; Querying whether a person knows someone; Saying to someone that perhaps they know you; Saying you're sure someone knows someone else; Asking if someone knows someone well & responding; Saying someone is full of himself or herself; Be quiet! To express surprise; Stating what could result from going somewhere; Stating that something would not happen even although someone waited; **4.** Asking if something has happened & responding; Saying something had or had not happened; Saying you have seen something; Asking someone if they have bought something & responding; Asking someone if they have been doing something & responding; Saying someone will have bought something; Saying what might follow if you had bought something; Saying what happened, after some action had been taken; Asking someone if they used to do something & responding; **5.** Saying something is almost or about to ...; Saying what will happen; Asking if something will happen & responding; Saying something will or will not happen to someone else; Hoping something will or will not happen; Saying it is hoped something will be; Saying it is expected something will be; Saying something must be done **6.** Saying what has been done for, or to, you; Saying what has been done for, or to, someone else; Saying you have been embarrassed or affronted; Saying you're sick of, or wearied with something; Saying someone has been paid off or will be paid off; Saying something has been done to something; Saying a place will be closed down; Saying someone or something is only ... or merely; To have hoped something would, or would not, happen to you; Hope something will happen to someone else; States in which things are **7.** Confirming where or emphasising where someone comes from or doesn't come from; Asking where in particular someone is from & responding; Asking someone to confirm where they stay & responding; Saying where someone is at present; Asking about and confirming physical features; Asking or confirming where or when something was bought; Confirming or emphasising the past; Offering a toast; Saying why you did or will do something **8.** Saying someone usually does or doesn't do something; Asking what someone usually does & responding; Saying what usually happens; Saying that you told someone not to do something; Talking about having succeeded; Wondering if you have succeeded & responding; Saying on what date an event will take place