

Scots language and culture teacher CPD

Unit 4.4 Activity 3C

Model Answer

This is a model answer. You might have noted down other facts and ideas.

(a and b) There seem to be words that are similar in Scots and other languages. For example, the Doric word *Quine* seems to link to *Kvinne* for woman in Norse languages (although linguists also think the source may be an old English word *cwene*). The pronunciation of the word *moose* and *hoose* in Scots is similar to the pronunciation in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and Dutch. Norwegian shows most similarities with Scots. Finnish is least like Scots. Gaelic has few similarities with Scots, the most similar being *bhrèagha* and *bricht*. The reason is that whereas Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and Dutch of Germanic origins, like Scots, Gaelic and Finnish belong to an entirely different language families, the Celtic and the language family respectively.

It might be interesting for your learners to look up the language families and see where certain families originated and how migration played a part in their reach.

(c) Gaelic has influenced many Scots words, particularly those related to the land such as *glen*, *loch*, *craig*, *strath*, *cairn* and *corrie*. Many retained Latin words borrowed into Scots are legal terms. Norse words feature the lack of 'n' in words like *drucken*, rather than *drunken*, and words like *bigg* rather than *build*. A fair number of French words borrowed into Scots are related to food and drink, such as *gigot*, *ashet*, *howtowdie* (from an old French word *hétoudeau* for a young capon), *tassie* (cup).

An example of silly sentences using some of the words:

The *drucken dominie* tottered doon the *glen*, went tae the *kirk* an sat on his *dowp*, his *dubby breeks* makkin a richt *redd* up o the pews. He made on he was luggin intil the sermon, but as he lookit up his thochts drifftit tae his plans fer a roon o *gowf* wi his *caddie*, followed by a denner o *partan* paté, *howtowdie* an tae settle his *kyte*, a fine *tassie* o tee.

Norse, Flemish, French, Latin, Gaelic

Translation:

The drunken teacher tottered down the valley, went to the church and sat on his backside, his muddy trousers making a thorough mess of the pews. He pretended to listen carefully to the sermon, but as he looked up his thoughts drifted to his plans for a round of golf with his caddie, followed by a lunch of crab paté, boiled chicken with poached eggs and spinach, and, to settle his stomach, a nice cup of tea.

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