

English

National 4

National 4 English builds on your child's experiences and skills from S1 – 3 and it is expected that he/she will progress to National 5. As such, National 4 can be a challenging course for pupils.

National 4 has internally assessed units.

English: Analysis and Evaluation

Your child will study of detailed texts in the contexts of literature, language or media, he/she will use listening and reading skills to provide evidence of understanding, analysis and evaluation, as appropriate to purpose and audience.

English: Creation and Production

Your child will be required to provide evidence of his/her talking and writing skills to create and produce detailed texts in a chosen context. SQA require that your child demonstrates technical accuracy in written texts.

Your child will also have to complete and pass the **Added Value Unit** before being presented for a National 4 award. This is an independent piece of work, done towards the end of S4, which requires your child to study a number of texts and then write a critical essay which compares these texts to one another. SQA states that this is to be a study carried out and logged by your child without a lot of teacher support.

SQA STATES THAT YOUR CHILD MUST PASS ALL INTERNALLY ASSESSED UNITS AND ADDED VALUE UNIT BEFORE BEING PRESENTED FOR NATIONAL 4.

National 4 Literacy

It is also a requirement by SQA that your child sits and passes the National 4 Literacy qualification. Whilst your child will experience literacy across all subjects to support him/her in developing literacy skills, it is the responsibility of the English Department to ensure that there is enough evidence to show that your child meets all the National 4 Literacy outcomes. We have therefore designed our course so that as your child sits *English* internal assessments, they are also sitting their Literacy assessments. Literacy is also internally assessed.

Please note that children with ASN DO NOT have access to reader/scribes for Literacy assessments therefore alternative arrangements will be made for them.

The good news for your child this year is that THERE IS NO final exam for them to prepare for.

Class teachers aim to have your child through National 4 and be preparing for National 5 by the end of S4. We feel that this accelerated approach will best prepare your child for the high expectations and demands of the National 5 course.

What should my child be doing to prepare for assessment?

- ❖ Re-reading the literature studied in class so that they know it very well and recall the knowledge needed for their critical essays
 - ❖ Practice close reading papers to time at home
 - ❖ Reading challenging texts - for example, a novel which is more complex than he or she usually chooses. Class teachers will be happy to advise. In addition, your child should be reading quality newspapers regularly in order to familiarise himself/herself with extended vocabulary, how writers structure their arguments as well as making themselves aware of wider culture and news.
 - ❖ When reading challenging texts, make a note of new vocabulary and use it in his/her everyday speech and writing.
 - ❖ When reading a novel, make a note of any interesting descriptions/imagery and apply to his/her own writing
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- If your child is unable to demonstrate the necessary skills for National 4, you will be alerted and it may be advised that he/she be presented for National 3 this year and progress to National 4 next.