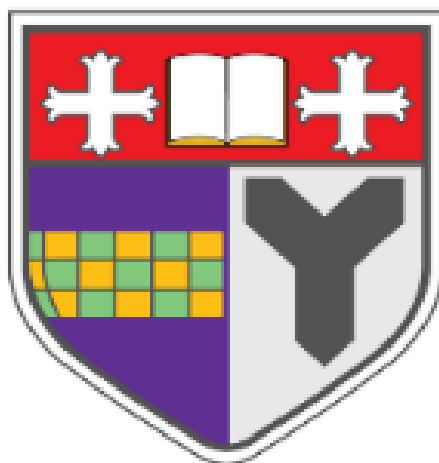


# Senior Phase

## S3 into S4

# Personalisation and Choice

A Guide for Pupils, Parents and Carers



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

## St. Joseph's Academy

*Inspire and Transform*

Version 2 – January 2020

Dear Pupil,

In the coming weeks, you will take part in a programme to help you make informed choices about your learning in S4.

Through this programme you will have an opportunity to reflect on the following:

- your own strengths and interests
- the importance of keeping an open mind about possible career choices
- how to find and use career resources in the school

On **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.00pm** there is an important information evening for parents/carers. You are also encouraged to attend the meeting. We will describe the personalisation and choice process and facilitate a question and answer session.

You have already received your S3 report for each subject and on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January between 4.00pm and 6.00pm** your parents and carers attended parents' evening.

During the rest of January, every pupil in S3 will take part in an interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Following interview, you are asked to take your options form home so that it can be checked and signed by your parent/carer.

Yours sincerely



Mr Kane  
Head Teacher

## **Senior Phase**

S4 marks the beginning of what is known as the Senior Phase. In S4, you are usually presented at one of three levels.

### **National 3**

This qualification continues at the level of content covered at third level in the Broad General Education. There are no final exams and all of your work is marked in school. You will either pass or fail a National 3 course.

### **National 4**

There is no exam in a National 4 course. Your work is assessed in school and you can either pass or fail a course. If you pass a National 4 course in S4 then you may progress to the National 5 course in that subject during S5. In some cases progression to National 5 in the same subject may not be the best course of action. Sometimes supplementary National 4 qualifications may be better suited to your needs. Each case can be examined and discussed with pastoral care and principal teachers on a pupil by pupil basis.

### **National 5**

National 5 courses are on offer in all subjects. In nearly every subject you will sit an exam at the end of S4. The marks you gain in this exam will be added to coursework tasks to determine your final grade. The course is graded using the letters A, B, C, D and F. Progression from an 'A' or 'B' at National 5 will usually allow pupils to undertake Highers in S5.

### **How many subjects will I study in S4?**

In total, you will study seven examinable subjects plus core RE, PE and PSE. All pupils are obliged to study Maths and English until the end of S4. This means that you will select five other subjects during the options process.

## **Personalisation and Choice**

In 2018/19 we moved to a 'free choice' model, where pupils select subjects without the restriction of options columns. We intend to continue with this model next session.

There are two conditions when selecting subjects:

- You cannot select a subject that you did not study in S3
- You cannot select all three traditional Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

## **Science Combinations**

It is not possible to select three Science subjects at the end of S3. Very few, if any, University level courses state the need for three Sciences as an entry requirement. The overwhelming majority of courses seeking a Science qualification from school leavers will state Chemistry as a necessary Science.

In general, pupils wishing to study engineering would select Physics alongside Chemistry, and those wishing to study Medicine, Dentistry etc. would take Biology alongside Chemistry.

## **Is there any advice that I should follow when choosing my subjects?**

Yes, this is an important time of your school life and you should speak to your teachers, family and our careers adviser about your thoughts and ideas. In general it is important to consider the following when making your choices:

### **Your skills, talents and interests**

You should think carefully about your own God given skills and talents. Some of us are very creative, others very sporty, some enjoy problem solving, others reflective writing or number processing. Think about what you are naturally good at. It is also important to think about subjects that capture your attention or interest out with school.

## **Your family**

Your family know you best and always have your best interests at heart. The advice that you receive from your family plays an important role in the subject choices that you make. Take time to talk to your family about your choices. Ask those at home to help you decide if you are not sure. Your family will also have an idea of your progress based upon your homework and school reports. Often the advice that your family can provide is crucial at this time of your life.

There are some great resources available to families as they help their son/daughter make her subject choices.

## **Parentzone**

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/About%20the%203-18%20curriculum>

This website has been designed by Education Scotland to support parents and carers as they strive to understand the new curriculum and qualifications.

## **My World of Work**

<http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices>

My World of Work is a Skills Development Scotland service that provides a unique mix of resources, features and job information to help people discover more about themselves and the future world of work. You can also access My World of Work from Glow. There are already a number of MYWOW ambassadors in S3 who will be available to help you access the site during lunchtimes next week. We strongly encourage parents/carers to use this site with pupils.

## **National Parent Forum for Scotland**

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/>

The National Parent Forum for Scotland website contains a series titled 'Nationals in a Nutshell'. The online guides can be used to find out more about National 4 and National 5 qualifications.

## **Your friends**

Friends are important people in your lives and you will often share similar interests. However, it is important to remember that your friends may have skills and talents that are different to yours. We always advise you to make choices that provide you with the opportunity to study subjects that you enjoy.

Sometimes this means that you won't choose to take the same subjects as your friends. Even if you pick the same subject as your friend, there is no guarantee that you would end up in the same class. Be careful that you don't pick a subject just because your friend has taken a subject. You could end up studying a course that doesn't make best use of your talents and skills.

## **Your teachers**

All of your teachers are highly professional and strive to offer you a first class education. Naturally, you may have teachers that you get on with very well or who bring subject content to life and inspire you. In a similar way to the influence of your friends, this is an important part of school life. However, you do not know if your teacher will be able to take your class in S3. The relationship that you have with your teacher is very important but it should not be the only factor that you consider when taking a subject on.

## **Your future**

Some pupils will have a clear idea about what they want to do when they leave school. Other pupils will not yet have thought about the future or have not decided on a pathway. If you have a clear idea about what you would like to do then talk to your Pastoral Care teacher or our Careers Adviser about what you need to take on in S3. If you are undecided then don't worry. Think about your skills and talents and make choices that will bring out the best in you.

## **Will I definitely get to study my first-choice subjects?**







We always aim to ensure that all pupils get to their preferred subjects in S4. However, sometimes courses do not run because of low uptake or due to timetabling constraints. Generally a course needs at least ten pupils to run. If a course is oversubscribed we may also have to look at your intended career path before coming to a decision about whether or not we should allocate a space to you.

## Progression to S5 and S6

Remember that the choices you make now will have an influence on what you can study in S4, S5 and S6.

### Consider the future

The progression pathways are shown below.

S4	S5	S6
National 3 	National 4 	National 5
National 4 	National 5 	Higher
National 5 	Higher 	Additional Highers or Advanced Higher


Sometimes pupils do not progress from one level to the next. This table is illustrative of the desired progression routes for pupils. Each pupil is different and sometimes progression takes the form of adding supplementary qualifications at the same level of study but in a different subject area.

For subject or career specific pathways, please speak to our careers advisor, your pastoral care teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership team.

## College Provision

For some pupils, the most appropriate pathway in S4 includes College courses. Ayrshire College often confirm provision around March of each year. At the time of writing, the courses scheduled to run in session 2020/21 are shown below.

College course provision will be discussed with pupils as a potential option in light of tracking data and intended career path.

Summary of EAC School-College courses: 2020-21				Ayrshire College 
School-College Partnership Programmes	SCQF Level	Location	Day (s)	Times
Steps to Work Award - Hair and Beauty (August)	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
Steps to Work Award - Hair and Beauty (January)	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
SfW Uniformed Services	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
NPA Professional Cookery	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
SfW Early Education & Childcare	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
NPA Software Development	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
SVQ Performing Engineering Operations (units only)	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
C&G Introduction to the Construction (units only)	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
Skills for Work: Automotive Skills	4	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
School-College Partnership Programmes	SCQF Level	Location	Day (s)	Times
NPA Sport & Fitness: Team Sports (Football)	5	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
SfW Early Education	5	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
Mental Health & Wellbeing Award	5	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
SVQ Performing Engineering Operations (infill)	5	Kilmarnock	Thu/Fri	9am-4pm
Advanced Woodwork (units only)	5	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm-4pm
Introduction to Criminology (units only)	5/6	Kilmarnock	Tue/Thu	2pm -4pm

All young people wishing to attend college must complete an online application form and possibly attend an interview in order to secure a place on a programme of study. School staff will provide support in advance of both stages of this process.

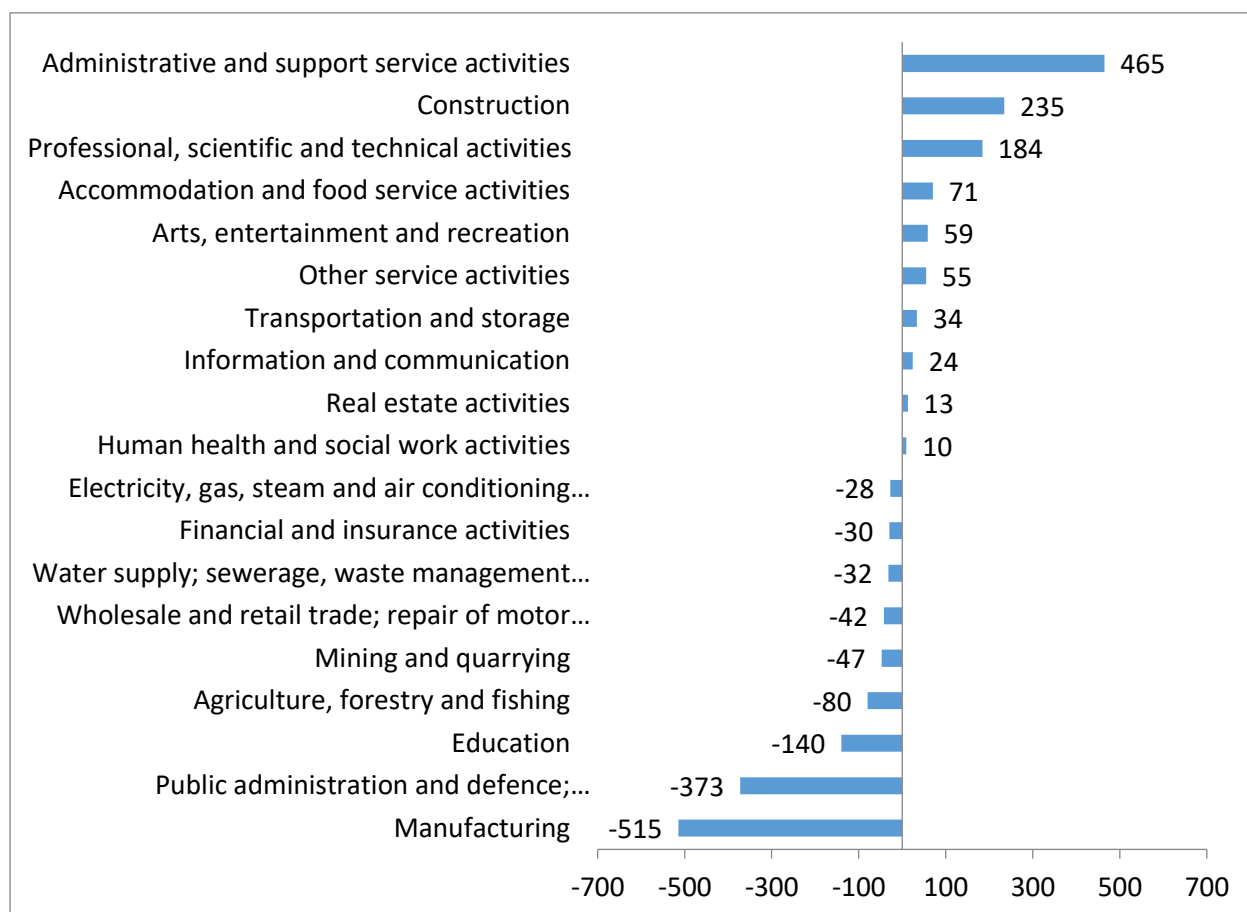


## Labour Market Intelligence and Regional Skills Assessments

Skills Development Scotland release data every year which identifies trends in the 'labour market'. This means that they look at employment opportunities in a geographical area and provide advice about where there may be opportunities for work.

This intelligence is a critical part of the decision making process when you begin to think about your future. Take time to sit with your parents or carers to look at this information.

The graph shown below highlights the fact that in Ayrshire (between 2016 and 2027), the Scottish Government predict that employment opportunities will grow in sectors such as Administration, Construction, Professions (law, medicine, teaching, etc), Arts + Entertainment and Health and Social Work.



In Finance, wholesale trade, manufacturing and public administration/education administration, projections show a downturn.

## Your choices

The rest of this booklet provides you with information on each subject on offer in S4. Please take time to read all pages carefully. Teachers have provided as much information as possible. Once you have read this booklet take some time to talk to your family.

## Who will help me?

- Subject teachers will clarify the different learning pathways open to you in each department
- The PSE Programme will include a visit from the Careers Adviser, Kate Faulds who will talk to you about the planning for the future
- S3 My World of Work Ambassadors will be on hand to offer support next week
- Your Year Head or Pastoral Care teacher will carry out personalisation and choice interviews to talk to you about the decisions that you have made
- Finally, and most importantly, you will complete your options form in discussion with your parents or carers

## Timeline

S3 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January
Subject Input	Ongoing
PSE Input	Ongoing
Interviews	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January to Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January

### S3 into S4 – Personalisation and Choice

Please complete this form before your interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. You should bring this form to your interview. After the meeting, you will take a copy home to be signed by a parent/carer.

All pupils will study:

Maths                  English                  Core PE/PSE                  Core RE

You should then select five subjects to study in S4. There are two conditions:

- You cannot select a subject that you did not study during S3
- You cannot select three Science subjects (maximum of two from Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Please **circle** the five subjects you wish to take next year.

History	PE	Art and Design	Computing Science	Graphic Communication
Geography	Biology	French	College Provision	Creative Industries
Modern Studies	Chemistry	Spanish	Practical Woodwork	Travel and Tourism
Music	Physics	Design and Manufacture	Music Technology	RMPS
Health Sector	People and Society	Business		

Career Aspiration:

I have accessed My World of Work with my child to help inform their subject choices:

Pupil Signature:

Parent/Carer Signature:

SLT Signature:



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## National 5 Art and Design: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Art and Design course for Session 2018/19.

### National 5 Art and Design Course Information

National 5 art candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Expressive Folio drawing/painting
- Design Folio
- Critical studies

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Expressive folio worth 100 marks externally assessed.
- Design folio worth 100 marks externally assessed
- Critical studies- 2 hour written examination worth 50 marks and externally assessed

The Art and Design SQA Exams will take place on: 28th May 2019

### Assessment

Candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Timed past paper questions
- Knowledge Tests

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The timed essays and source questions in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	<i>Critical studies starts. Design R&amp;I</i>	Jan	<i>Prelim Expressive R&amp;I</i>
Sep	<i>Design initial ideas</i>	Feb	<i>Expressive Dev</i>
Oct	<i>Design Dev</i>	Mar	<i>Expressive folio deadline</i>
Nov	<i>Design folio deadline</i>	Apr	<i>Exam Prep</i>
Dec	<i>Expressive folio R&amp;I</i>	Key R&I	Research and investigation

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 5 Art and design will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of research and analysis of specific artists or designers work, preparing for timed past papers and knowledge tests. Ongoing practical coursework will also be expected. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the National 5 Art and design course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising or developing coursework. This could take many forms including:

Past papers, reading, questioning etc.

Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out. This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions/ essays/ example paragraphs completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

### The Assignment

National 5 Art and design pupils will -

In the *Expressive Activity* pupils develop their personal thoughts and ideas in visual form and experiment with media

In the *Design Activity* pupils will plan, research and develop creative design proposals. This will help to develop their creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Candidates must produce critical research evidence on selected artists and designers part of the course. This research forms part of the required knowledge for the exam worth 60 marks. This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to progress.

### Useful Resources

- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- @stjoacss (Art and Design Department Twitter)



**Other out of school activities which will benefit Higher Art and Design students include:**

- Watching films/ documentaries relating to the relevant artists and designers
- Making quality art and design work relating to coursework
- Visiting museums and galleries

National 4 Art & Design: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 4 Art & Design Course for Session 2018/19.

**National 4 Art & Design Course Structure**

National 4 Art & Design candidates attend classes four periods per week. There are 2 Mandatory Units – *Expressive Activity and Design Activity*.

In *Expressive Activity* pupils will develop their personal thoughts and ideas in visual form and experiment with media in either 2D or 3D.

In *Design Activity* pupils will plan, research and develop creative design proposals. This will help to develop their creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

At National 4 level there is an additional *Added Value Unit* in *Art and Design Practical Activity*.

**Assessment**

Assessment will be conducted by means of continuous assessment carried out throughout the year at specific times. National 4 work is not required to be sent to SQA for external formal assessment and is marked within the Art & Design Department by Art & Design staff. The work is ungraded and is marked either pass or fail. If candidates have not completed their work to the required standard to merit a pass, they will be informed at a stage early enough to allow remediation. However, failure to remedy this by not completing the work to an acceptable standard and an adequate volume, will result in the candidate being re-levelled. Key assessment dates and information are outlined below.

JUNE - END of NOVEMBER	
<b>Design</b>	<b>CRITICAL</b>
<b>Product, Jewellery, Fashion, Graphics, Textiles</b>	Each staff member will teach this element according to unit and personal preferences
• Research	
• 4 Developments based on research each with annotations & sketchmodels	
• Final Model	
• Evaluation	
Research & Initial Ideas 1st week September	
Development Deadline 2nd week October	
Final Piece/Design + Evaluation last week in November	
DECEMBER - END of MARCH	
<b>Expressive</b>	<b>CRITICAL</b>
<b>Still Life/Portrait/Landscape</b>	Each staff member will teach this element according to unit and personal preferences
• 3 Initial Resource Drawings	
• 3 - 4 Developments/Compositions with annotations	
• Final Expressive Piece	
• Evaluation	
Final sheet should also include information on 1 inspirational artist and examples of their work.	
3 Initial Drawings - 2nd week January (Xmas H/W)	
Developments/compositions - Feb half term	
Draw up final piece over Feb Hols	
FINAL DEADLINE + Evaluation - Last week March	

**Art and Design Course Information**

In the Senior Phase, at all levels, we continue to build on pupils' prior learning and experiences in Art and Design. Courses delivered enable pupils to communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas using art and design media, materials, techniques and/or technologies; to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and appreciation of art and design practice; to work imaginatively and develop individual creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking and reflective practice.

We continue to use the methodologies from the BGE but with more emphasis on pupil autonomy and independent learning. Homework continues to be an important part of courses, and pupils are expected to, on a regular basis, continue with practical coursework at home.

**Homework, Supported Study and Revision**

All candidates studying National will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of practical work in both areas of Expressive and Design. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular practical work at home. The pace of the National 4 Art & Design course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week on practical work. This could take many forms including:

- Developing design ideas and annotating work.
- Working on design solution/final model or individual parts to be constructed later.
- Working on initial expressive drawings according to the chosen theme.
- Developing expressive ideas and compositions along with annotations.
- Working on the final expressive piece with their chosen media/materials,

All practical work must be completed with an emphasis on QUALITY, and must also be completed within the specified time scale according to Departmental assessment deadlines.

**Useful Resources**

- <https://www.youtube.com> For various instructional videos on all things creative and art-based.
- <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/> Excellent resource for images and subjects of all sorts with valuable links to other invaluable resources.
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47385.html> Relevant National 4 Course materials can be found here.
- <http://www.design-training.com/graphic-design/art-and-design-resources-for-students-and-teachers.html>

**Other out of school activities which will benefit Art students include:**

- \* Watching art & design related films and documentaries
- \* Visiting galleries & exhibitions
- \* Visiting local library for reading/research
- \* Attending Art School open days & degree shows

## National 5 Business Management: Guide for Parents and Carers

January 2020



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Business Management course.



### N5 Business Management Course Information

National 5 Business Management candidates will attend classes 4 periods per week.

Pupils study 3 units:

- Understanding Business
- Management of Marketing and Operations
- Management of People and Finance

### Monitoring Progress

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by the teacher in a number of ways including:

- Knowledge Tests
- Homework Tasks
- Case Studies

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these.

Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers but they should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug		Jan	<i>Prelim</i>
Sep	<i>Understanding Business</i>	Feb	
Oct		Mar	<i>Managing People &amp; Finance</i>
Nov	<i>Marketing &amp; Operations</i>	Apr	
Dec			

### Course Structure

The following topic areas will be covered throughout the year:

- Understanding Business - the role of different types of business organisations in society, internal and external business environments and the role of stakeholders.
- Marketing - processes to maintain competitiveness, communicate effectively with consumers and maximise customer satisfaction.
- Operations - procedures used to maintain quality through the effective management of suppliers and inventory, and methods of production.
- People - concepts and processes relating to human resource management, and how employees contribute to the success of organisations.
- Finance - preparing and interpreting information to solve financial problems facing business organisations.

Homework may take the form of:

- Completing teacher-set homework tasks.
- Self-directed study of course notes.

### Course Assessment

The course assessment for National 5 Business Management consists of 2 parts:

- 1) Assignment is worth 30 marks of the course assessment
- 2) Question Paper is worth 90 marks of the course assessment

### Assignment

The assignment requires pupils to prepare a short report on a specific area (eg technology, finance, quality, recruitment) of a business they have chosen. Pupils have to show that they can plan, research and make decisions when undertaking the assignment, and use different sources of information.

### Question Paper

This is an end-of-course exam. The exam is set and marked by the SQA. It is a closed-book exam and pupils will not know in advance which topics will be assessed. The exam will last 2 hours.

#### Out of school activities which benefit N5 Business Management include:

- Using Bitesize
- Watching business-related TV programmes

## National 5 Biology: Guide for Parents and Carers



November 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Biology course for Session 2018/19.

## National 5 Biology Course Information

National 5 Biology candidates attend classes 4 periods per week if in S4 and 6 periods a week if in S5/S6 Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Cell Biology
- Multicellular Organisms
- Life on Earth

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Exam Question Paper (100 marks / 2 hours 30 minutes)
- The Assignment— A report researched and written in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked ( 20 marks / 1 hour 30 minutes)

The Biology SQA Exams will take place on:

**Monday 30th April 2019**

## Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Homework exam questions.
- Mid unit and end of unit assessment.

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The mid unit and end of unit tests will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Unit 3 end of unit assessment	Jan	Prelim
Oct	Unit 1 mid unit assessment	Feb	Unit 2 Mid-unit assessment
Nov	Assignment Research and communication (up to 8 hours of class time)	Mar	Unit 2 end of unit assessment
Dec	Unit 1 end of unit assessment	Apr	Final exam

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 5 Biology will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of practicing past paper exam questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on 'Show My Homework'. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school program. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. There is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes
  - Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
  - Completing Past Papers at home
  - Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic
  - Using the resources on SCHOLAR/QUIZIZZ/QUIZLET and CRAM to practice key ideas.
- Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions/ essays/ example paragraphs completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

## The Assignment

All National 5 Biology pupils will complete an assignment report which contributes 20% of their final grade. The assignment assesses the application of skills of scientific inquiry and related biology knowledge and understanding. It allows assessment of skills that cannot be assessed by a question paper; for example, handling and processing data gathered through experimental work and research skills. The assignment has two stages:

- The research stage must involve experimental work which allows measurements to be made. Candidates must also gather data/information from the internet, books or journals. The research stage will be conducted in lessons with support from the class teachers, it is vital pupils utilise this support effectively.
- The report stage is conducted under exam conditions and pupils will have a maximum of 1hr and 30 minutes to complete their report.

## Useful Resources

- Science glow blog — <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/scienceresources/national-5/biology-n5/>
- SQA — <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47912.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- QUIZIZZ—<https://quizizz.com/admin/search/Stjosephsbiology>
- BBC bitesize—<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zync87h>
- Oronsay—<http://www.ornsay.org/Nat5.htm>
- Revision in a nutshell—[http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/nutshells\\_revision\\_N5\\_biology.pdf](http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/nutshells_revision_N5_biology.pdf)
- E-Textbook — <https://sites.google.com/a/edubuzz.org/nat5biopl/home>

## National 5 Chemistry: Guide for Parents and Carers



November 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Chemistry course for Session 2018/19.

### National 5 Chemistry Course Information

National 5 Chemistry candidates attend classes 4 periods per week if in S4 and 6 periods a week if in S5/S6 Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Chemical changes and structure
- Natures chemistry
- Chemistry in society

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Exam Question Paper (100 marks / 2 hours 30 minutes)
- The Assignment— A report researched and written in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked ( 20 marks / 1 hour 30 minutes)

The Chemistry SQA Exams will take place on:

**Monday 10th May 2019**

### Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Homework exam questions.
- End of unit assessments

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The end of unit tests will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Oct	Mid course assessment	Jan	Prelim
Dec	End of unit assessment	Mar	Unit 3 assessment
Jan	Assignment <i>Research and communication (up to 8 hours of class time)</i>	May	Final exam

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 5 Chemistry will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of practicing past paper exam questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on 'Show My Homework'. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school program. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. There is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

**Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities. Any past paper questions/ essays/ example paragraphs completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

### The Assignment

All National 5 Chemistry pupils will complete an assignment report which contributes 20% of their final grade. The assignment assesses the application of skills of scientific inquiry and related chemistry knowledge and understanding. It allows assessment of skills that cannot be assessed by a question paper; for example, handling and processing data gathered through experimental work and research skills.

The assignment has two stages:

- The research stage must involve experimental work which allows measurements to be made. Candidates must also gather data/information from the internet, books or journals. The research stage will be conducted in lessons with support from the class teachers, it is vital pupils utilise this support effectively.
- The report stage is conducted under exam conditions and pupils will have a maximum of 1hr and 30 minutes to complete their report.

### Useful Resources

- Science glow blog — <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/scienceresources/national-5/chemistry/>
- SQA — <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47428.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- Evan2Chem - <https://www.evans2chemweb.co.uk/>
- Username: stjosephs Password: initial
- BBC bitesize—<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zmnp34j>
- Revision in a nutshell—<https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/chemistry-national-5/>



## National 5 Computing Science: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Computing Science course for Session 2018/19.

### N5 Computing Science

National 5 Computing Science candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils study four main units throughout the year:

- Software Design and Development
- Computer Systems
- Database Design and Development
- Web Design and Development

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Practical Assignment (60 marks)
- Question paper (110 marks)

Both the assignment and the question paper will be set and externally marked by the SQA.

The N5 Computing Science SQA Exam will take place on:

**Wednesday 22nd May 2019 at 09:00**

### Assessment

Unit Assessments are no longer included within the course which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Knowledge Tests
- Homework Tasks
- Practical Tasks

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The knowledge tests and practical skills in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam and assignment.

Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug		Jan	<i>Prelim</i>
Sep	<i>Systems</i>	Feb	<i>Assignment</i>
Oct		Mar	
Nov	<i>Software Development</i>	Apr	
Dec	<i>Database and Website Development</i>		

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

Pupils will be set homework by their class teacher to complete or revise the different topics within the course and to prepare them for the assignment and exam at the end of the year. These tasks will cover the following topic areas:

- Computer Architecture
- Security Methods
- Writing and Explaining Programs
- Testing and Evaluation Methods
- The Software Development Process
- Legal Implications
- Website Creation
- Entity Relationship Diagrams
- Searching and Sorting Information

Pupils should be doing regular homework or home study every week, which will include the following:

- Undertaking teacher-set homework tasks.
- Self-directed study of course notes.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school program. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school.

### The Assignment

The purpose of the assignment is to assess practical application of knowledge and skills from across the Course to develop a solution to an appropriately challenging computing science problem. It will assess learners' skills in analysing a problem, designing, implementing and testing a solution to the problem, and reporting on that solution.

The assignment will have 50 marks out of a total of 160 marks. This is 31% of the overall marks for the Course assessment. Marks are distributed across three distinct tasks as follows:

- Software Design and Development (25 marks)
- Database Design and Development (10 - 15 marks)
- Web Design and Development (10 - 15 marks)

Marks are distributed across the five skills covered by the assignment as follows:

- Analysis (5 marks)
- Design (5 marks)
- Implementation (30 marks)
- Testing (5 marks)
- Evaluation (5 marks)

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019.

### Useful Resources

Learners can use the available course note textbooks in the department before school, break and lunchtime. Additional resources can be found below:

- BBC Bitesize
- National5computing.co.uk
- w3schools.com
- Class Resources (on *Show my Homework*)

**Other out of school activities which will benefit N5 Computing Science include:**

- Watching programs such as...

## National 5 Creative Industries: Guide for Parents and Carers

September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Personal Development in the Creative Industries course for Session 2018/19.

### National 5 Creative Industries Course Information

Personal Development within the creative industries is an introductory qualification which develops the knowledge and skill required for employment or further study in the creative industries. Throughout the course pupils will gain an awareness of the opportunities and jobs in the different creative sectors.

The course is split into 4 different units—

- Self awareness
- Self in work
- Self in Community
- Practical Abilities

### Assessment

Candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- On going assessment
- Pupil/Teacher review

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. Pupils will fill in individual logs which will be reviewed by the class teacher. Students will be assessed on skill level and work ethic. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	<i>Self Awareness unit starts</i>	Jan	<i>Practical Unit starts—ongoing assessment</i>
Sep	<i>Self Awareness Teacher Log book review</i>	Feb	<i>Self in community Unit starts</i>
Oct	<i>Self in Work unit starts</i>	Mar	<i>Log book review/ Teacher/ pupil re-view</i>
Nov	<i>Self in work Teacher log book re-</i>	Apr	
Dec			

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 5 Creative Industries will often have research tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of research and analysis of specific jobs within the creative industries. Ongoing practical coursework will also be expected. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

**Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

### The Unit Outline

- The course is split into 4 Units. Students can work to achieve a single unit or all units for the full National 5 course Award

- All units will run simultaneously so that students experience a good mix of practical and theory work.

- Students will work through a series of projects and outcomes that will enable them to evaluate and develop their own personal and technical skills for the world of work within the Creative Industries.

- At the beginning of the course students will be introduced to their Project Aim for the Year. They will work on this through a mix of collaborate and independent learning depending on the area of the Creative Industries that they have chosen to study.

- Each year pupils will be given a 'theme' that the work must be based around allowing the pupils to really push their creative thinking.

- Throughout the course, students will research what areas of the Creative Industries would be required in order to achieve their project aim.

- Pupils must identify an area that interests them, research that field and then apply it to the Project.

- Each student will be responsible for their own field and what would be required in order to achieve the Project Aim. This will enable students to experience a true sense of working within the Creative Industries as well as relying on a team of individuals from different specialisms.



#### Other out of school activities which will benefit Creative Industries students include:

- Watching films/ documentaries relating to the relevant artists and designers
- Making quality art and design work relating to coursework
- Visiting museums and galleries

## National 5 Design and Manufacture: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Design and Manufacture course for Session 2018/19.

### N5 Design and Manufacture Course Information

National 5 Design and Manufacture candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils study two main units throughout the year:

- Design
- Materials and Manufacture

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Design Assignment (55 marks)
- Practical Assignment (45 marks)
- Question paper (80 marks)

Both the Design Assignment and the question paper will be set and externally marked by the SQA. The Practical Assignment is internally marked.

The N5 Design and Manufacture SQA Exam will take place on:

**Thursday 16th May 2019 at 13:00**

### Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Knowledge Tests
- Homework Tasks
- Design Portfolio
- Practical Work

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The knowledge tests, portfolio and practical skills in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam and assignment.

Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug		Jan	<i>Prelim</i>
Sep	<i>Bird House</i>	Feb	<i>Assignment</i>
Oct	<i>Materials and Manufacture</i>	Mar	
Nov	<i>Design Project</i>	Apr	
Dec			

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

Pupils will be set homework by their class teacher to complete or revise the different topics within the course and to prepare them for the assignment and exam at the end of the year. These tasks will cover the following topic areas:

- Analysis of a Brief
- Design Factors & People that influence Design
- Modelling in Design
- Graphics in Design
- Common Materials and uses
- Commercial Manufacture
- Impact of Design and Manufacture Technologies
- Tools, Machines & Processes
- Planning for manufacture

Pupils should be doing regular homework or home study every week, which will include the following:

- Completing outstanding folio work.
- Undertaking teacher-set homework tasks.
- Self-directed study of course notes.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school program. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school.

### The Assignment

There are two linked assignments: Design and Practical.

**Design Assignment - 55 marks** this assignment assesses the application of design skills to develop a proposal to a set brief:

- Analysing a brief (8 marks)
- Generating ideas (9 marks)
- Developing ideas (20 marks)
- Using models (6 marks)
- Using graphics (6 marks)
- Planning for manufacture (6 marks)

The proposal is then manufactured as evidence for the **Practical Assignment—45 marks**. It assesses the application of practical skills to manufacture the proposal developed in the design assignment

- Measuring and marking-out (9 marks)
- Using hand and machine tools (18 marks)
- Assembling components (5 marks)
- Finishing (9 marks)
- Evaluating (4 marks)

**Pupils will be working on this from January 2019.**

### Useful Resources

Learners can use the available course note textbooks in the department before school, break and lunchtime. Additional resources can be found below:

- [Technologystudent.com](http://Technologystudent.com)
- BBC Bitesize
- Design and Manufacture Course notes (on *Show my Homework*)
- Design and Manufacture Topic Checklist (on *Show my Homework*)

#### Other out of school activities which will benefit N5 Graphic Communication include:

- Practicing sketching and rendering skill
- Watching programs such as *How its made* to see manufacturing processes in industry

## National 5 English: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 English course for Session 2018/19.

### N5 English Course Information

N5 English candidates attend classes four periods per week if in S4, and 6 periods a week if in S5/6. Pupils study and develop skills in:

- Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (RUAЕ)
- Critical Reading of Literature from at least two different genres
- Writing a portfolio
- Listening and talking

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1—an RUAЕ paper where pupils read one passage and answer 30 marks worth of questions (1h)
- Question Paper 2—a Critical Reading paper that entails writing a critical essay and analysing a set text equating to 40 marks (1h 30mins)
- The Portfolio—two pieces of writing are completed and submitted to the SQA, totaling 30marks.

The English SQA Exams will take place on:

**Thursday 9th May 2019 at 9am**

### Assessment

One internal Unit Assessment within N5 English is the Spoken Language Unit which is assessed through solo talk or group discussion where a pupil will also need to answer questions.

Other assessments throughout the year will take the form of:

- Timed essays
- Timed textual analysis
- Timed RUAЕ papers
- Assessment of memory work
- Homework

Pupils will always have advance notice of these. Each assessment is used to ensure pupils are revising and are fully prepared for the demands of the final exam. The skills a pupil develops will be built on before the pressures of time are added.

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying N5 English will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of revising key quotations or preparing for timed essays. Pupils will also practice their RUAЕ skills through homework exercises and be instructed to work on their folios. These exercises will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study may be offered by individual class teachers. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study/drop-in sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the N5 English course leaves little time for consolidation in class, therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key piece of literature

It is important that pupils learn quickly which study method works best for them. This can only be achieved through trying out different methods, such as the ones stated above, until a pupil finds something that enables them to study effectively.

Any past paper questions/ essays/ example paragraphs completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

### The Portfolio

All N5 English candidates must produce two pieces of writing no more than 1000 words each. One should be broadly creative; the other persuasive/discursive. The Folio is worth 30 marks and must be produced with some supervision and control by class teachers who will have a supporting role. The candidate should therefore take initiative in planning, management and completion of the task.

This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to:

- Carry out required reading/ research once a suitable topic has been chosen
- Plan and write the essay
- Create a bibliography

Pupils will be working on this from June 2018.

### Useful Resources

- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zqxhfg8>
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47904.html>
- Dictionary apps such as Merriam-Webster
- @Stjoacadeng (English Department Twitter)



### Progression Routes

- RUAЕ is the most challenging element of the National 5 course. In order for pupils to prepare themselves for the sophisticated language encountered in the RUAЕ exam they must be reading non-fiction articles from top quality newspapers. Pupils can access these online and download apps such as BBC News for free.

# Nationals Geography: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Nationals Geography course for Session 2018/19.

## Nationals Geography Course Information

National Geography candidates attend classes for four periods per week (or six in S5/6).

Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Physical Environments
- Human Environments
- Global Issues

National 5 pupils are assessed by two components:

- An exam paper worth 80 marks (2 hrs 20 mins)
- An assignment worth 20 marks (1 hr)

The Geography SQA Exams will take place on:

**Tuesday 28th May 2019**

National 4 pupils do not sit an external exam. Instead they will sit a unit assessment for each of the three units studied, and also complete a research project.

## Monitoring progress

For N5 pupils, Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates' progress will be assessed in a number of ways including:

- Prelim exam
- Class tests
- Knowledge tests
- Homework questions

The exam questions in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam.

Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	<i>Weather</i>	Jan	<i>Prelim</i>
Sep	<i>Urban</i>	Feb	<i>Assignment</i>
Oct	<i>Glaciation</i>	Mar	<i>Health and Coasts</i>
Nov	<i>Climate Change</i>	Apr	<i>Rural Exam prep</i>
Dec	<i>Population</i>		

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National Geography will have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of completing example exam questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that pupils adhere to all deadlines set by class teachers.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, Mrs Fulton offers further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with Mrs Fulton.

As well as set pieces of homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Nationals Geography course requires pupils to engage in consolidation work at home therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising (and more as exams approach). This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

**Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback and marking.

## The Assignment

All National 5 Geography candidates must produce a report on a topic of their choice. This is worth 20 marks and must be produced with minimal support from class teachers.

This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to:

- Carry out required reading/ research and identify a suitable topic
- Identify suitable methods of gathering data (carry out field work)
- Produce 2, A4 sides of processed information using the data gathered
- Write-up and learn a discussion of findings with conclusions

Pupils will be working on this from November 2018. The final assignment will be written up under exam conditions and pupils have one hour to do this.

## Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/sjan5geography/>
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/znbw2hv> (BBC Bitesize N5 Geography—Revision)



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)

### Other out of school activities which will benefit National Geography pupils include:

- \* Watching geographical films/ documentaries
- \* Reading
- \* Visiting local library for reading/ research
- \* Watching news/ reading newspapers

## National 5 Graphic Communication: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Graphic Communication course for Session 2018/19.

### N5 Graphic Communication Course Information

National 5 Graphic Communication candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils study two main units throughout the year:

- 2D Graphics
- 3D Graphics

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Assignment (40 marks)
- Question paper (80 marks)

Both the assignment and the question paper will be set and externally marked by the SQA.

The Graphic Communication SQA Exam will take place on:

Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 13:00

### Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Knowledge Tests
- Homework Tasks
- Portfolio of 2D and 3D Graphics

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The knowledge tests and their portfolio in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam.

Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	<i>Lamp Shade</i>	Jan	<i>Prelim</i>
Sep	<i>Led Keyring</i>	Feb	<i>Assignment</i>
Oct	<i>Sporting Life</i>	Mar	
Nov	<i>Candle Diffuser</i>	Apr	
Dec	<i>Point of Sales</i>		

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

Pupils will be set homework by their class teacher to complete or revise the different topics within the course and to prepare them for the assignment and exam at the end of the year. These tasks will cover the following topic areas:

- Preliminary Drawings, Production Drawings & Promotional Graphics
- Manual Drawing - Rendering, shading use a range of graphics media
- CAD - Creating and variety of drawings
- International Drawing Standard
- Orthographic Drawing .
- Architectural Drawing -.
- CAG - using software programs that would show shading, shadow, reflection, tone, texture and display technique.
- DTP - Creating leaflets, flyers, posters, product advertisements using computer techniques.
- Use of appropriate software

Pupils should be doing regular homework or home study every week, which will include the following:

- Completing outstanding folio work.
- Undertaking teacher-set homework tasks.
- Self-directed study of course notes.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school program. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school.

### The Assignment

The assignment assesses the ability to apply graphic communication skills and knowledge developed and acquired during the course in the context of defined tasks, which require candidates to respond to a problem or situation.

It is completed in class over 8 working hours. It is completed individually as a closed booked assignment, without the use of the internet or other learning materials to support. Classes will be scheduled as normal but the assignment will be completed in one block with no interruptions for class teaching in between, until 8 working hours have passed in class.

It has three areas covering preliminary, production and promotional graphics. These may, or may not, be thematically related and include various tasks that candidates complete.

Marks are awarded as follows to a total of 40 Marks:

Area	Range of Mark
Preliminary Graphics	10-20
Production Graphics	10-20
Promotional Graphics	10-20

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019.

### Useful Resources

Learners can use the available course note textbooks in the department before school, break and lunchtime. Additional resources can be found below:

- [Technologystudent.com](http://Technologystudent.com)
- BBC Bitesize
- Graphic Communication Course notes (on *Show my Homework*)
- Graphic Communication Topic Checklist (on *Show my Homework*)

#### Other out of school activities which will benefit N5 Graphic Communication include:

- Practicing sketching and rendering skill
- Watching programs such as Grand Designs to see how Graphic Communication is used context

# Skills for work: Health Sector. A Guide for Parents and Carers

January 2020



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Health Sector course for the session 2020/2021



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## Health Sector Course Information

The Health Sector course covers five units which are taught over 2 years. By the end of S3, pupils should already have completed units in "Health Sector: An introduction" and "Health Sector: Roles and Responsibilities". In S4, pupils will complete the remaining 3 units over 2 periods per week. A summary of what is learnt in each unit is detailed below:

### Health Awareness

You will be given the opportunity to work as members of a team to produce health promotion advice. You will learn about the main body systems to inform the production of health promotion advice. Effective team-working is an essential element of working in the health sector. You will investigate a multidisciplinary team and explore the benefits of a multidisciplinary approach to users of the health sector.

### Working safely

You will assess risks in relation to infection and participate in practical activities to demonstrate infection control measures.

### Life sciences industry

You will learn how to participate in a practical activity to take a physiological measurement. You will be introduced to the range of product types made by the life sciences industry and will participate in a practical activity to demonstrate the use of a biomedical device, e.g. assessing temperature, pulse and blood pressure.

The course also aims to develop employability skills needed for success in the workplace through a variety of practical experiences in the health sector.

Successful learners may progress to:

- SVQs in Health and Social Care
- National Courses or Units
- Further/higher education
- vocational training
- employment

## Assessment

There is no external assessment but pupils will have to complete a range of assessments in each unit to complete the course. These assessments will take the form of:

- learner portfolio of work
- observation of practical activities
- group or individual presentation
- peer review
- research activities
- case study
- health sector scenarios
- poster or other display approaches
- written or verbal communication with teachers and role play.

# Nationals History: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Nationals History course for Session 2018/19.

## Nationals History Course Information

Nationals History candidates attend classes for four periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Hitler and Nazi Germany 1918-1939
- Era of the Great War 1900-1928
- Atlantic Slave Trade 1770-1807

National 5 pupils are assessed by two components:

- An exam paper worth 80 marks (2 hrs 20 mins)
- An assignment worth 20 marks (1 hr)

The History SQA Exams will take place on:

**Monday 13th May 2019**

National 4 pupils do not sit an external exam. Instead they will sit a unit assessment for each of the three units studied, and also complete a research project.

## Monitoring progress

For N5 pupils, unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates' progress will be assessed in a number of ways including:

- Prelim exam
- Class tests
- Knowledge tests
- Homework questions

The exam questions in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam.

Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Exam question work	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Exam question work	Feb	Assignment
Oct	Nazis test	Mar	Slave trade test
Nov	Exam question work	Apr	Exam question work
Dec	Great War test		

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Nationals History will have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of completing example exam questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that pupils adhere to all deadlines set by class teachers.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at other times. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Nationals History course requires pupils to engage in consolidation work at home therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising (and more as exams approach). This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

**Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback and marking.

## The Assignment

All National 5 History candidates must produce an extended essay on a topic of their choice. This is worth 20 marks and must be produced with minimal support from class teachers.


This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to:

- Carry out required reading/ research and identify suitable historical sources
- Plan the essay (including creating a 200 word resource sheet)
- Learn and practice the essay

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019. The final assignment will be written up under exam conditions and pupils have one hour to do this.

## Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoacnationalhistory/> (Miss Quigley's Blog)
- <https://mrmarrhistory.wordpress.com/> (Mr Marr's Website)
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z2phvcw> (BBC Bitesize N5 History—Revision)

 @stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)  
@mrmarrhistory (Mr Marr's Twitter page)

### **Other out of school activities which will benefit Nationals History pupils include:**

- \* Watching history films/ documentaries
- \* Reading
- \* Visiting local library for reading/ research
- \* Watching news/ reading newspapers



# N5 Mathematics: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the N5 Maths course for Session 2018/19.

## N5 Maths Course Information

N5 Maths candidates attend classes 4 (S4) and 6 (S5/6) periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Expressions and Formulae
- Relationships
- Applications

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Question Paper 1— 50 marks. 1 hour 15 mins
- Question Paper 2— 60 marks. 1 hour 50 mins

The N5 Maths SQA Exams will take place on:

Friday 3rd May 2019 at 9am

Prelim 1 in December

Prelim 2 in April

## Assessment

Candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Unit assessments
- Prelim exams
- Formal homework
- End of topic tests

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. Prelims in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug		Jan	Unit 3 (S4) Unit (S5/6)
Sep	Unit 2 (S4)	Feb	
Oct		Mar	Unit 3 (S5/6)
Nov	Unit 1 (S5/6)	Apr	Prelim 2
Dec	Prelim 1	Key	Final Exam

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying N5 Maths will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of finishing classwork exercises and formal homework. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department most nights during the week. Pupils who regularly attend supported study generally perform better in the final SQA examinations. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set formal Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the N5 Math course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes and practicing questions.
- Revisiting formal homework exercises and doing corrections.
- Completing Past Papers at home


Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out. This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

## Useful Resources

- [www.mathsrevision.com-N5](http://www.mathsrevision.com-N5)
  - [www.bbc.com/bitesize](http://www.bbc.com/bitesize)
  - [www.national5maths.com](http://www.national5maths.com)
- You Tube
- Andrew Gibson maths
  - DLB maths

Ipads- Pupils should get the course code from their teacher.

 @stjoacadmaths ( Maths dep twitter)

**Best Advice: Take advantage of after school support and attempt as many past papers as you can.**

## National 5 Modern Languages: Guide for



January 2019



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Languages courses for Session 2018/19.

### N5 Modern Languages Course Information

National 5 candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils study two units throughout the year which cover the four contexts of Society, Employability, Learning and Culture.

- Understanding Language—Reading and Listening
- Using Language—Talking and Writing

Pupils are assessed by four components:

- 1) Question Paper 1—Reading and Writing(1h 30 mins). 50 marks
- 2) Question Paper 2—Listening 20 marks
- 3) The Assignment—a 20 mark essay pupils write in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked.
- 4) Talking exam—30 marks

The French SQA Exams will take place on Tuesday 14th May 2019

The Spanish N5 is on Tuesday 7th May.

**Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 9am**

### Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- ◆ Listening and Reading Assessments
- ◆ Talking and Writing practice
- ◆ Writing under exam conditions
- ◆ Grammar and vocabulary tests

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. Pupils are expected to spend considerable time at home on memorizing grammar rules and key vocabulary for each topic. Formal assessments will take place roughly at the following times in the school year:

Oct	<i>Spanish Reading and Listening</i>
Nov	<i>French Reading and Listening</i>
Dec	<i>Spanish Listening and Talking</i>
Jan	<i>French Talking and Writing</i>
Feb	<i>Writing Assignment</i> <i>Performance—Talking</i>

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying N5 Modern Languages will always have a range of tasks to be working on at home. Key to success at N5 is to be familiar with the grammar and structure of the foreign language and be able to recognise a range of tenses in the spoken and written language. Pupils should spend time revising these using their notes and online resources. Most homework tasks will be for reading where students should show their understanding of the foreign language and their ability to express this comprehension clearly in English. As the course progresses pupils will focus on their writing skills, particularly those required for the job application part of the exam.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers. Targeted supported study closer to the final Talking exam will be available after school in February.

Regular revision at home is essential for pupils to achieve passes in N5 Modern Languages. They can do this in a variety of ways:

- Reading over class notes for grammar points, particularly verb tense
- Making lists of key topic vocabulary
- Using iTunes U to access past papers including listening papers
- Preparing thoroughly for the externally assessed part of the course, namely the Talking and Writing submissions.

Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out. This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

### The Assignment

The assignment allows candidates to produce a piece of writing in the modern language based on one of four contexts using detailed and complex written language, in the modern language, as part of a coursework writing task on a chosen topic.

The assignment has 20 marks out of a total of 120 marks. This is scaled by SQA to represent 12.5% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019 in class and it would be helpful if parents and carers could support their child in this preparation.

### Useful Resources

- <https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm>
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z43cjxs>

iTunes U courses, Show My Homework for Quizlet links  
@stjoacmodlan Modern Languages Department Twitter



**Other out of school activities which will benefit N5 Linguists include:**

- \* Watching foreign films/ documentaries
- \* Reading to improve English vocabulary
- \* Listening to radio
- \* Watching news/reading newspapers

## National 5 Modern Studies: Information for parents &amp; carers

September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Modern Studies course for Session 2018/19.

Course information

**National 5 candidates attend 4 lessons per week. The course covers 3 units:**

- Democracy in Scotland
- Crime & the Law
- World power- USA

**Pupils are assessed by two components:**

- **Component 1: Question paper-** 80 marks. Worth 80% of overall grade. 2 hours 20 mins. Composed of knowledge and understanding questions & 3 source evaluation questions.
- **Component 2: Assignment-** 20 marks. Worth 20% of overall grade. 1 hour write up

**The Nat 5 Modern Studies SQA Exam will take place on:**

**1st of May 2019**

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 5 Modern Studies will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of answering exam questions or preparing for timed knowledge and/ or source questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework and on Glow blogs. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents/carers by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the National 5 course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

**Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions/ essays/ example paragraphs completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

The Assignment

All National 5 Modern Studies pupils must complete an assignment worth 20 marks. The assignment will take the form of a report with research and findings. Pupils will need to carry out their own research and produce and learn a report. This will be learned by pupils and written up during a 1 hour write up. This is sent to the SQA to be marked. Pupils will be required to:

- Carry out independent reading/ research and identify suitable Modern Studies sources/ data/statistical information
- Plan and write the report
- Create a research sheet no more than two single- sides of A4 paper
- Learn the report & write it up in a 1hr exam setting

**Pupils will be working on this from November 2018.**

Useful Resources

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoacsseniormodernstudies/> (Miss Gibson's blog)

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=Modern+Studies&level=N5> (SQA website very useful for accessing past papers)

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zxsnb9q> (BBC Bitesize- very useful for revision)



Follow the Social Subjects Department on twitter @stjoacss

- resources/advice & guidance can be found here.

Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Timed questions
- Timed Source Questions
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework K/U questions

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The timed essays and source questions will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers.

**Other out of school activities which will also be beneficial include:**

- \* Reading a quality newspaper
- \* Visiting local library for reading/ research materials
- \* Watching The News on TV
- \* Watching documentaries and politics programmes i.e. *Question Time*, *The Sunday Politics*

## National 4 Music: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 4 Music course for Session 2018/19.

## National 4 Music Course Information

N4 Music candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Performing Skills
- Understanding Music
- Composition Skills

Pupils are internally assessed for the above three components and undertake an Added Value Unit which comprises:

- An eight minute performance on two instruments
- Performed in exam conditions
- Internally assessed
- Information on the pieces chosen
- A reflection on their performance

## Assessment

Each unit will be marked on a pass or fail basis by the school.

- Performing—pupils must prepare at least two pieces/sections on each of their instruments to exam standard
- Understanding—will be assessed in end of unit tests throughout the year
- Composition—will be assessed throughout the year in compositional technique exercises and pupils' own compositions.

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of assessment dates and deadlines. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers.

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 4 Music will always have tasks they should be working on at home. While written homework may not be given as often as in other subjects, pupils are expected to spend time practising their two instruments. If pupils do not have access to instruments at home, they can speak to their teacher about borrowing an instrument or using time at lunchtime/after school etc. for practice. Pupils will also be given music literacy homework and concept-based tasks to complete. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the N4 Understanding Music unit leaves little time for consolidation in class and therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least 30 minutes per week revising concepts covered in class. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Using BBC Bitesize N4 Music materials

**Pupils should not be listening to music (unless part of their Understanding work), using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

## The Added Value Unit

All N4 Music candidates must perform an 8-minute programme of pieces on two instruments as part of their Added Value Unit. This is in addition to the three mandatory units of Performing Skills, Composition Skills and Understanding Music. The performance will be set in formal conditions and internally assessed. While teachers will help pupils choose an appropriate programme of pieces, it is ultimately the responsibility of the candidate to ensure they learn their music and give the best performance they can. This requires a great amount of self-discipline and pupils should be devoting a considerable amount of their time to practising for their performance, either in school or at home. Music Practice Rooms are always available at lunchtimes and priority is given to SQA pupils.

The class teacher will regularly check on progress and will suggest changes of pieces or instruments as appropriate if a pupil is struggling with material. Pupils will finalise their programmes by the end of September to give them adequate time to prepare their music.

## Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/artmusicresources/>
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z96fcdm>
- (BBC Bitesize National 4 Music—Revision Notes, Quizzes, Video Clips)

@stjoacarts (Art and Music Department Twitter)



## National 5 Music: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Music course for Session 2018/19.

## National 5 Music Course Information

N5 Music candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Performing Skills
- Understanding Music
- Composition Skills

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Performing Exam—programme of 8 minutes on two instruments (scaled to 50 marks)
- Assignment — a composition and review (scaled to 15 marks)
- Understanding Paper—questions based on musical examples (scaled to 35 marks)

The Music Performance exams will take place on a specified date(s) from mid-February to end of March. The Understanding exam will take place on:

Friday 26 April 2019 at 9am

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 5 Music will always have tasks they should be working on at home. While written homework may not be given as often as in other subjects, pupils are expected to spend time practising for their performance exams. If pupils do not have access to instruments at home, they can speak to their teacher about borrowing an instrument or using time at lunchtime/ after school etc. for practice. Pupils will also be given music literacy homework and concept-based tasks to complete. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the N5 Understanding Music unit leaves little time for consolidation in class and therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least 30 minutes per week revising concepts covered in class. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Using BBC Bitesize N5 Music materials

Pupils should not be listening to music (unless part of their Understanding work), using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out. This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

## Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Regular musical performances
- Composition check-ins
- Knowledge Tests

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug		Jan	<i>Understanding Prelim</i>
Sep	<i>Music Thru the Ages</i>	Feb	<i>Perf. Exam</i>
Oct	<i>20th Century Music</i>	Mar	<i>Perf. Exam</i>
Nov	<i>Vocal Music</i>	Apr	
Dec	<i>Performing Prelim—full 8 min. prog.</i>		

## The Performing Exam

All N5 Music candidates must perform an 8-minute programme of pieces on two instruments to an outside examiner in February or March. This accounts for 50% of their overall mark. While teachers will help pupils choose an appropriate programme of pieces, it is ultimately the responsibility of the candidate to ensure they learn their music and give the best performance they can. This requires a great amount of self-discipline and pupils should be devoting a considerable amount of their time to practising for their performance, either in school or at home. Music Practice Rooms are always available at lunchtimes and priority is given to SQA pupils.

The class teacher will regularly check on progress and will suggest changes of pieces or instruments as appropriate if a pupil is struggling with material. Pupils will finalise their programmes by the end of September to give them adequate time to prepare for the prelim (in December) and final exam (in February or March).

## Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/artmusicresources/>
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zkty4wx>
- (BBC Bitesize National 5 Music—Revision Notes, Quizzes, Video Clips)

@stjoacarts (Art and Music Department Twitter)



# N5 Music Technology: Guide for Parents and Carers

September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the N5 Music Technology course for Session 2018/19.

## N5 Music Technology Course Information

N5 Music Technology candidates attend classes 4 periods per week. Learners will develop skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio, and to use music technology creatively in sound production. Learners will also analyse a range of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, and develop a broad understanding of the music industry.

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Question Paper—an essay based exam paper worth 40 marks, scaled to 30% overall mark (1hour)
- Assignment—two separate tasks. Each task is marked out of 50, giving a combined total out of 100, and scaled to 70% overall mark

Music Technology SQA Exams will take place on:

May

## Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Classroom practical tasks
- Logbooks (planning and evaluation)
- Exam style Questions
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework tasks

All assessments will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Planning	Jan	Revision & Prelim
Sep	Record vocal tracks - Listening	Feb	Catch up/ Finalise Logs
Oct	Add effects to projects - Listening	Mar	Catch up/ Finalise Logs
Nov	Add MIDI & Garageband loops - Listening	Apr	Various Tests
Dec	Peer Assessments	May	Exam: Question paper

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All

candidates studying N5 Music Technology will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of researching production features and technological developments or planning for projects. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic
- Sourcing sound effects from the relevant websites

Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out. This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

## The Assignments

All N5 Music Technology candidates must produce two separate projects, each in a different context. In each project, candidates must work with different types of hardware and software to demonstrate a range of technical skills. Each production should involve a minimum of five parts, at least two of which should involve the use of a microphone. Finally, each production should be between 1 and 3 minutes long.

## Useful Resources

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56950.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zb97sbk> (BBC Bitesize N5 Music Technology – Video Clips)

## National 4 People &amp; Society: Guide for Parents and Carers



January 2020



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 4 People & Society course for Session 2020/21.

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### National 4 People & Society Course Information

National 4 People & Society candidates attend classes for four periods per week in S4/5/6.

Pupils study four units throughout the year:

- Decision Making Unit
- Comparison Unit
- Added Value Unit
- Independent Investigation Unit

National 4 People and Society is a vocational National award and as such pupils do not sit an external exam.

Instead they complete an assessed piece of coursework for each of the four units following time completing classwork and independent research.

Typically the assessed piece of work will take the form of a formal written report or project, dependent on each specific unit.

### Monitoring progress

Candidates' progress is checked regularly throughout the year by the class teacher.

This will usually take the form of one to one discussions during which each pupil will set targets for their own progression moving forward.

Pupils are expected to adhere to all deadlines set by the class teacher, particularly in regards to the completion of the four assessed pieces of work required by the SQA to complete the award.

Aug	Added Value Unit work	Jan	Decision-Making Unit work
Sep	Added Value Unit work	Feb	Independent Investigation Unit
Oct	Comparison Unit work	Mar	Independent Investigation Unit
Nov	Comparison unit work	Apr	Independent Investigation Unit
Dec	Decision-Making Unit work		

### National 4 People & Society Course Content and Aims

**The main aims of the People in Society Course are to enable learners to develop:**

- ◆ a range of skills which will enhance opportunities to engage positively in society
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of society and their place in it
- ◆ straightforward knowledge of key ideas from across social studies and social science disciplines
- ◆ an understanding of significant influences on society and individuals

During the course of the People & Society course pupils will study a number of contemporary topics, covering a wide range of social science disciplines. Topics include: the use of capital punishment; human trafficking; and Scottish independence. Pupils have the opportunity to chose their own topic for the Independent Investigation Unit, from an SQA approved list.

Pupils will be asked to discuss and debate many topics in a mature and appropriate manner throughout the year, further developing their interpersonal and communication skills. As such, **pupils are expected to behave in a mature and respectful manner at all times, with the understanding that the opinions of other pupils may be different to their own.**

Pupils will be expected to conduct their own research throughout the course of the year and each candidate must provide a comprehensive list of any sources of evidence used in the completion of their four assessed pieces of work. **It is vital that pupils complete all necessary research on their own, as directed by the class teacher.**

### Useful Resources

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47444.html>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zp3d7ty>

**Other out of school activities which will benefit National 4 People & Society pupils include:**

- Watching contemporary documentaries
- Listening to political podcasts
- Visiting local library for reading/ research
- Watching news/ reading newspapers

## National 3 and 4 Physical Education: Guide for Parents

### and Carers



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 3 and 4 Physical Education course for Session 2018/19.



### National 3 Physical Education Course Information

- National 3 P.E. candidates attend classes 4 periods per week. Pupils learning will surround the four factors taught in P.E.
  - Mental
  - Emotional
  - Social
  - Physical

#### **Pupils are assessed by two components:**

- Component 1 — a written booklet titled 'Factors Impacting Performance'. This booklet will be marked internally and is subject to verification by the SQA.
- Component 2— is a performance skills unit

### Factors Impacting Performance Unit (FIP)

Pupils will have their knowledge tested over a range of questions related to their learning in P.E. These questions will include a variety of command words.

The FIP is organised under three outcomes and pupils being assessed against 8 assessment standards from 1.1 to 3.3. Candidates are required to pass 6 out of 8 of the assessment standards presented to them to continue with the course.

### Performance Skills

In this unit pupils will be assessed in a range of practical activities and are required to demonstrate basic movement and performance skills in a minimum of two activities.

### National 4 Physical Education Course Information

- National 4 P.E. candidates attend classes 4 periods per week. Pupils learning will surround the four factors taught in P.E.
  - Mental
  - Emotional
  - Social
  - Physical

#### **Pupils are assessed by two components:**

- Component 1 — a written booklet titled 'Factors Impacting Performance'. This booklet will be marked internally and is subject to verification by the SQA.
- Component 2— is a performance assessment titled 'Added Value Unit'. Pupils studying National 4 will complete a badminton assessment on an assigned day.

### Factors Impacting Performance Unit (FIP)

Pupils will have their knowledge tested over a range of questions related to their learning in P.E. These questions will include a variety of command words.

The FIP is organised under three outcomes and pupils need to pass 7 out of the 10 assessment standards from 1.1 to 3.4 to ensure they can pass the National 4 assessment.

### Added Value Unit

Pupils will be assessed against 5 assessment standards all included in one outcome. Pupils will be expected to complete a performance under a challenging or competitive context. Pupils will be marked internally by P.E. staff and the marks awarded will be subject to verification by the SQA.





# National 5 Physical Education: Guide for Parents and

September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Physical Education course for Session 2018/19.

## National Physical Education Course Information

- National P.E. candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils learning will surround the four factors taught in P.E.
  - Mental
  - Emotional
  - Social
  - Physical

### **Pupils are assessed by two components:**

- Component 1 — a written portfolio marked out of 60 and worth 50% of pupils grade.
- Component 2— Performance assessment (2 performances marked out of 30) total marks awarded up to 60.

All candidates studying National Physical Education will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of 4 mark portfolio type questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the National P.E. course leaves little time for consolidation given 3 of our 4 sessions will be practical based for the majority of the year therefore, around 1 hour studying per week is encouraged.

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing portfolio type questions at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

Any work completed by the pupils that is completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

## Assessment

Pupils complete 1 internal unit titled 'Performance Unit'. This is a stand alone unit delivered at the beginning of the course. Pupils must pass in a minimum of two activities to be levelled at National 5.

Pupils will begin with 1 theory a week and as we near completion of the course, classroom time will be increased to two theory lessons or more depending on pupil progress.

The portfolio is split into 3 sections. Section 1 pupils will complete an exam during the prelim diet. This exam is worth 8 marks.

Section 2 and Section 3 are delivered in class but are completed under exam conditions. Pupils will learn the necessary content and then write an answer in response to questions in the portfolio.

Pupils have one attempt at the portfolio and therefore are not entitled to any re-sits or changing of their answers. Their first attempt is their final attempt.

All candidates will be assessed practically on two separate occasions. The first assessment will take place on the Monday 3rd December and Tuesday 4th December and the second assessment will take place on the week beginning 04/03/19. Under SQA guidelines the two activities selected by the candidates must be significantly different and as such demonstrate a broad skill range.

We will support candidates through this decision process to help them select their best activity however the final decision on the assessed activity is confirmed by the candidate. Each performance will be recorded on departmental iPads and not marked live. This will ensure we can look at each candidates performance in more detail.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide the candidate with their results as they are official SQA marks and will be submitted to them upon the completion of the assessment process.

To support their performance standard candidates will be offered a practical performance preparation period to help them develop their performance further, prior to their assessment.

- P.E. Wordpress accessible via departmental twitter page  
[stjosephspe.wordpress.com](http://stjosephspe.wordpress.com)
- P.E. app accessible via pupil iPad



@StJosephsHWB

## National 5 Physics: Guide for Parents and Carers



November 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Physics course for Session 2018/19.

## National 5 Physics Course Information

National 5 Physics candidates attend classes 4 periods per week if in S4 and 6 periods a week if in S5/S6 Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Dynamics and Space
- Waves and Radiation
- Electricity and Energy

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Exam Question Paper (135 marks / 2 hours 30 minutes)
- The Assignment— A report researched and written in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked ( 20 marks / 1 hour 30 minutes)

The Physics SQA Exams will take place on:

Monday 15th May 2019

## Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Homework exam questions.
- End of unit assessment.

The end of unit tests will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers and pupils will always be given advanced notice of these by their teachers.

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 5 Physics will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of practicing past paper exam questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on 'Show My Homework'. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. There is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

**Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions/ essays/ example paragraphs completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

## The Assignment

All National 5 Physics pupils will complete an assignment report which contributes 20% of their final grade. The assignment assesses the application of skills of scientific inquiry and related Physics knowledge and understanding. It allows assessment of skills that cannot be assessed by a question paper; for example, handling and processing data gathered through experimental work and research skills.

The assignment has two stages:

- The research stage must involve experimental work which allows measurements to be made. Candidates must also gather data/information from the internet, books or journals. The research stage will be conducted in lessons with support from the class teachers, it is vital pupils utilise this support effectively.
- The report stage is conducted under exam conditions and pupils will have a maximum of 1hr and 30 minutes to complete their report.

## Useful Resources

- Science glow blog — <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/scienceresources/national-5/physics/>
- SQA — <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47430.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- BBC bitesize—<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z6fsgk7>
- Revision in a nutshell—<https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/physics-national-5/>
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## National 5 Practical Woodworking Skills: Guide for Parents and Carers

September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Practical Woodworking Skills course for Session 2018/19.



### N5 Practical Woodworking Skills Course Information

National 5 Practical Woodworking Skills candidates attend classes four periods per week. Pupils study three main units throughout the year:

- Flat Frame Construction
- Carcase Construction
- Machining and Finishing

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Practical Activity (70 marks scaled to 70% of course)
- Question paper (60 marks scaled to 30% of course)

The Practical Activity is set by the SQA annually and marked internally. The question paper is set and externally marked by the SQA.

The Practical Woodworking SQA Exam will take place on:

**Friday 3rd May 2019 at 14:00**

### Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Knowledge Tests
- Homework Tasks
- Practical work through Models

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The knowledge tests and their completed models in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam and practical activity.

Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Test Joints	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Model 1	Feb	Assignment
Oct	Model 2	Mar	
Nov	Model 3	Apr	
Dec	Knowledge and Understanding		

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

Pupils will be set homework by their class teacher to complete or revise the different topics within the course and to prepare them for the assignment and exam at the end of the year. These tasks will cover the following topic areas:

- Measuring and Marking out
- Reading and Interpreting Drawings
- Materials—Softwoods, Hardwoods and Man-Made Boards
- Bench Work
- Cramping
- Joining Techniques—Flat Frame and Carcase
- Fixings and Adhesives
- Safe working and use of Machines & Power tools
- Surface preparation and Finishing
- Sustainability and Recycling

Pupils should be doing regular homework or home study every week, which will include the following:

- Undertaking teacher-set homework tasks.
- Self-directed study of course notes.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school program as well as lunchtime support with Mr. Ward to complete workshop tasks when required.

Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school.

### The Assignment

The practical activity allows candidates to demonstrate the application of skills and knowledge developed during the course to produce a finished product, to a given standard and specification. It is set by the SQA annually and is conducted under supervision and control.

The practical activity will be to manufacture a product and complete a log book. The log book will be provided as part of the assessment task. Marks are awarded for:

- Log book
- Flat-frame construction
- Carcase construction
- Machining/turnery
- Finishing
- Overall assembly

The practical Activity and National 5 level has a required tolerance of +/- 1mm for marking out and cutting, planning, machine & powertools. Joint gaps must be no larger than 1mm with overall sizes withing a +/- 3mm tolerance. Due to this high level of accuracy pupils should take particular care when completing their practical assignment.

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019.

### Useful Resources

Learners can use the available course note textbooks in the department before school, break and lunchtime. Additional resources can be found below:

- [Technologystudent.com](http://Technologystudent.com)
- BBC Bitesize
- Practical Woodworking Course notes (on *Show my Homework*)
- Practical Woodworking Topic Checklist (on *Show my Homework*)

#### Other out of school activities which will benefit N5 Graphic Communication include:

- Watching programs such as *How its Made* to see how products are manufactured

## National 5 RMPS: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers to support young people with the National 5 RMPS course for Session 2018/19.

### National 5 RMPS Course Information

National 5 RMPS candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

1. World Religion: Christianity
2. Morality & Belief: Morality, Medicine and the human body
3. Philosophy: Origins

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- The Exam: — an essay exam paper based on all 3 units worth 80 marks (2h 20mins)
- The Assignment— a 20 mark essay pupils write in class (1hour) under exam conditions that is sent to SQA to be marked

The RMPS SQA Exams will take place on:

**Monday 27th May 2019 at 9am & 11.20am**

### Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates progress will be assessed by teachers in other ways including:

- Timed essays (TE)
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework essays

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The timed essays will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Christianity & Origins TE	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Science & Origins TE	Feb	Assignment
Oct	Organ Donation TE	Mar	Christianity TE
Nov	Full Origins TE	Apr	Various TEs
Dec	Use of embryos TE	Key	TE (Timed Essay)

### Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying National 5 RMPS will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of writing essays or preparing for timed essays or preparing for their assignment. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the National 5 RMPS course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from textbooks
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

External distraction can adversely affect revision and homework. Pupils are advised to avoid using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.

Any past paper questions/ essays/ example paragraphs completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

### The Assignment

All National 5 RMPS candidates must produce an extended essay on a topic of their choice as part of the course. This is worth 20 marks and must be produced with minimal support from class teachers.

This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to:

- Carry out required reading/ research and Identify suitable sources
- Plan and write the essay
- Create a 200 word resource sheet
- Learn the essay

Pupils will be working on this from November onwards.

### Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/resources> (follow the links to National 5 RMPS)
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTOLJIWPWAcxFa37iQOUTOA>
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z782fg8>



@StJoAcadRE (R.E. Department Twitter)

#### **Other out of school activities which will benefit National 5 RMPS students include:**

- \* Watching subject related documentaries
- \* Reading
- \* Visiting local library for reading/ research
- \* Watching news/ reading newspapers

# Nationals Travel and Tourism: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Nationals Travel and Tourism course for Session 2018/19.

## Nationals Travel and Tourism Course Information

Nationals Travel and Tourism candidates attend classes for four periods per week. Pupils study four units throughout the year:

- Scotland
- Customer Services
- Employability
- UK and the Wider World

There is no exam for the National 4 and 5 Travel and Tourism course. Pupils will work to build up a portfolio for each of the four units of work.

Each unit has two or three outcomes. These outcomes are the same for both national 4 and national 5. The level worked at will be determined by the degree of quality and detail produced for each of the outcomes.

## Monitoring progress

For N5 and N4 pupils, candidates' progress will be assessed in a number of ways including:

- Class tasks
- Knowledge tests
- Homework tasks (these will usually be to complete pieces of work started in class)

The quality of work produced in class and for submission to portfolio will determine a pupils suitability for either N4 or N5.

Specific submission dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Scotland outcome 1	Jan	Employability O2 and 3
Sep	Scotland Outcome 2	Feb	UK and Wider
Oct	Customer Services O1	Mar	UK and Wider World O2
Nov	Customer Services O2 and 3	Apr	UK and Wider World O3
Dec	Employability O1		

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Nationals Travel and Tourism will have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of completing work set in class. These tasks will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that pupils adhere to all deadlines set by class teachers.

Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers. Pupils may attend the department at lunch and/ or after school if they need more time to work on tasks or their portfolio.

The content of the Nationals Travel and Tourism course requires pupils to engage in consolidation work at home therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week in preparation of completion of Units. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Carry out role play situations / try to gain confidence in verbal communication
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

**Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

## The Portfolio

All National 5 Travel and Tourism candidates must produce a portfolio of work covering all four Units.

This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to:

- Carry out required reading and research appropriate to each Unit
- Increase levels of confidence in role play situations
- Be original and imaginative in the presentation of work (e.g. advertising leaflets and posters)

The portfolio must be complete by the end of April.

## Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/sjatourism/>
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/znbw2hv> (BBC Bitesize N5 Geography—Revision—the tourism section in this)



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)

### Other out of school activities which will benefit Nationals T&T pupils include:

- \* Watching travel films/ documentaries
- \* Reading
- \* Visiting local library for reading/ research
- \* Gaining part time employment/ work experience
- \* Talking to friends & family about travel and customer service