

Senior Phase

S4/S5 into S5/S6

Personalisation and Choice

A Guide for Pupils, Parents and Carers



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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 S5 or S6.

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 pathways
- how to find and use career resources in school

On **Thursday 23rd January 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'J. Kane', is centered on the page.

Mr Kane
Head Teacher

For pupils moving from S5 into S6

The majority of the content contained within this booklet relates to progression from S4 to S5. While much of the content is still relevant to you, you can find information that is specific to next year's S6 pupils on page 10 and from page 15 onwards.

For pupils moving from S4 into S5

By this stage, you will have an idea of your presentation levels in each of your S4 subjects. You may also have an idea of what you would like to take next session and may be starting to form ideas of the pathway you would like to follow after school.

Understanding S4 Presentation 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 National 4 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.

Progression

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

Pathways

Advice for each pathway is as follows:

I wish to attain five Highers in S5 so that I can apply for University

In order to sit five Highers in S5, you must have at least five National 5 passes in S4. To maximise your chances of attaining five Highers, you will often need to attain at least a grade 'B' in five subjects in S4 that you then progress with in S5.

Example

S4 Attainment

N5	English	B
N5	Maths	B
N5	Chemistry	A
N5	PE	No award
N5	Design and Manufacture	A
N5	Physics	B
N5	Modern Studies	C

S5 Choices

Higher English
Higher Maths
Higher Physics
Higher Chemistry
Higher Design and Manufacture




While the above example is purely illustrative, progression in PE in S5 would not make sense if you were unable to pass the course in S4.

We recommend you prioritise subjects as follows (presuming you have passed N5 courses in S4):

- Those subjects listed as entry requirements for the university course(s) of your choice
- Those subjects where you are predicted to attain an ‘A’ or a ‘B’ pass at National 5 level
- Those subjects you are good at
- Those subjects you enjoy

Do I need to attain to a particular level at N5 to start a Higher course in S5?

The answer to this question is not always the same for every pupil. However, experience shows that for most pupils, it is necessary to attain to the levels shown below to have a *realistic* chance of progressing at the next level.

S4	S5
National 5 A or B Pass 	Higher Course
National 5 C 	Interview for Higher course or Alternative National 5 course
National 5 D or No Award 	Repeat National 5 course or select an alternative N5 course

In general, we advise those pupils studying National 5s to prioritise taking subjects that they are predicted to attain an ‘A’ or a ‘B’ in by the end of S4. This will protect against the risk of trying to progress to a level that may not suit your needs or talents.

Striking the right balance between supporting young people and providing advice that will be in their best interests is important and central to our personalisation and choice process.

What is the advice about requiring an 'A' or 'B' at National 5 based upon?

The latest SQA progression statistics for those moving from a 'C' at N5 to Higher are as follows:

S4 'C' Pass at National 5	Progression to an A to C pass at Higher
Art and Design	57%
Biology	24%
Chemistry	28%
Computing	16%
Design and Manufacture	24%
English	40%
French	30%
Geography	44%
Graphics	44%
History	63%
Maths	27%
Modern Studies	43%
Music	79%
Music Technology	45%
PE	62%
Physics	32%
Spanish	32%

* Statistics shown are the latest available from the SQA

In some subjects, such as Art, Music, PE and History, those with a 'C' at N5 have a good chance of passing the Higher course. However, in Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Design and Manufacture, progression is more of a challenge, whereby pupils with a 'C' in S4 have less than a 30% chance of progressing to a pass at Higher.

Parents/Carers and pupils should consider the above statistics when considering subject choices for those wishing to secure places at University.

I wish to attain a mixture of Highers and National 5s in S5

Some pupils may decide that they have a better chance of attaining the grades needed for a university course over two years. Others may wish to build a portfolio of qualifications over two years before applying for College courses.

For this reason, you may wish to focus on a mixture of National 5 and Higher courses next session. Please note that some University courses will prioritise attainment in S5, but there are pathways available that support Higher attainment over two years.

Example

S4 Attainment

N5 Maths D
N5 English B
N5 History A
N5 Art C
N4 Biology Pass
N5 Chemistry C
N4 Music Pass

With similar attainment to the above, you may feel that attempting five Highers in one sitting next year would cause stress and lead to lower attainment across all five subjects. You may then decide to take:

Higher English
Higher History
Higher Art
N5 Maths (Repeat)
N5 Music or Biology or Chemistry

You could then plan to sit additional Highers in S6, including Higher Maths and Higher Chemistry should you pass National 5 in S4.

I want to stay in school in S5, but don't think University is the right pathway for me, what are my options?

Where your attainment in S4 could lead to the possibility of attaining Highers, we recommend that you progress to sit Highers. However, in some cases, you may not feel that progression to University is in your best interests or possible in the short term.

You could decide to take a mixture of Highers and National 5's as outlined above, or you could decide to apply for college courses, whereby you sit four subjects in school and a college course. This can open up pathways to courses at College after school.

Example

S4 Attainment

National 4 Maths Pass
National 4 English Pass
National 4 Biology Pass
National 4 PE Pass
National 4 Music Pass
National 5 Art B
National 4 Computing Pass

Choices in S5

National 5 Maths
National 5 English
Creative Industries
Higher Art
College Provision related to Music, Computing or Biology or N5 Music,
Computing or Biology

Can I take college courses in S5?

Yes, for some pupils, college courses are the correct pathway in S5. You would generally study four subjects in school, and a fifth course at college. Ayrshire College will offer the following courses during session 2020/21.

Course	SCQF Level	Location
Steps to Work Award - Hair and Beauty (August)	4	Kilmarnock
Steps to Work Award - Hair and Beauty (January)	4	Kilmarnock
SfW Uniformed Services	4	Kilmarnock
NPA Professional Cookery	4	Kilmarnock
SfW Early Education & Childcare	4	Kilmarnock
NPA Software Development	4	Kilmarnock
SVQ Performing Engineering Operations (units only)	4	Kilmarnock
C&G Introduction to the Construction (units only)	4	Kilmarnock
Skills for Work: Automotive Skills	4	Kilmarnock

Course	SCQF Level	Location
NPA Sport & Fitness: Team Sports (Football)	5	Kilmarnock
SfW Early Education	5	Kilmarnock
Mental Health & Wellbeing Award	5	Kilmarnock
Advanced Woodwork (units only)	5	Kilmarnock
Introduction to Criminology (units only)	5/6	Kilmarnock

Please note, SCQF4 courses are broadly equivalent to National 4 school courses, and SCQF5 courses are broadly equivalent to National 5 school courses. In order to take Advanced Woodwork, you must have an SCQF4 qualification in Practical Woodwork (i.e. at least National 4 Practical Woodwork).

S4 into S5 pupils interested in selecting one of the courses shown must circle 'College Provision' on their options form. There is an application process to follow. School staff will provide support and guidance in relation to the application process. You may be invited for interview and Ayrshire College will decide who is accepted on to each course. Should your application be rejected, you will need to select five subjects to study in school.

College in S6

In addition to the SCQF4 and SCQF5 qualifications on offer next session, Ayrshire College will also offer courses at SCQF6 (Higher equivalent). Some of these courses are Foundation Apprenticeships (see page 21). SCQF6 courses are generally offered to S6 pupils and would involve splitting time between school and college.

Course	SCQF Level	Location
Foundation Apprenticeship Engineering - Y1 (Mechanical)	6	Kilmarnock
Foundation Apprenticeship Social Services, Children and Young People (1 year delivery)	6	Kilmarnock Academy
Foundation Apprenticeship: Food & Drink Technologies (1 year delivery)	6	Loudoun Academy
NPA Exercise & Fitness Leadership	6	Kilmarnock
NPA Software Development	6	Kilmarnock

Ayrshire College

There is an application process to follow. School staff will provide support and guidance in relation to the application process. You may be invited for interview and Ayrshire College will decide who is accepted on to each course. Should your application be rejected, you will need to select five subjects to study in school.

If you wish to take any of the courses listed above, then please circle the College Provision option on your options form.

Can I take a subject I have not studied in S4 when I move into S5?

We do not generally advise young people moving into S5 to crash school-based subjects. Courses in S5 build upon prior learning in S4. In a small number of cases, senior staff may advise that you do take on a new subject as a form of sideways progression (e.g. to attain an N5 award in another subject where progression to Higher is not advisable).

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 (Miss Faulds) 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 within our current S3 cohort who will be available to help S5/S5 pupils to access the site during lunchtimes next week. We strongly encourage parents/carers to use this site with pupils.

My Kid's Career

<http://mykidscareer.com>

This is a new website designed to assist parents/carers to understand growth industries and potential career paths in 2019 and beyond.

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, National 5 and Higher 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.

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 S5. 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 S5/6. 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 study their preferred subjects in S5/6. However, sometimes courses do not run because of low uptake or due to timetabling constraints. Unfortunately, we do not have an infinite amount of teaching time available and cannot always guarantee that a course will run. Generally, a National 5 or Higher course needs at least ten pupils to run.

By way of reassurance, not being able to take subjects in S5 is rare, with a 95% return rate usually guaranteed across a year group. Where combinations do not clearly articulate with College or University requirements, you may find that you cannot take certain subjects.

Example

You wish to apply for a University course and the entry requirements stipulate that you need to take Maths, English, Chemistry and Biology. Your attainment in S4 was as follows:

N5 Maths	A
N5 English	A
N5 Biology	A
N5 Chemistry	B
N5 Computing	B
N5 History	B
N5 Music	B

As an example, the school confirm that we are able to offer you Higher Maths, Higher English, Higher Chemistry and Higher Biology. You would like to take Higher Computing next year, but the school are unable to offer Higher Computing, or the course is oversubscribed with pupils intending to take Computing at college or university.

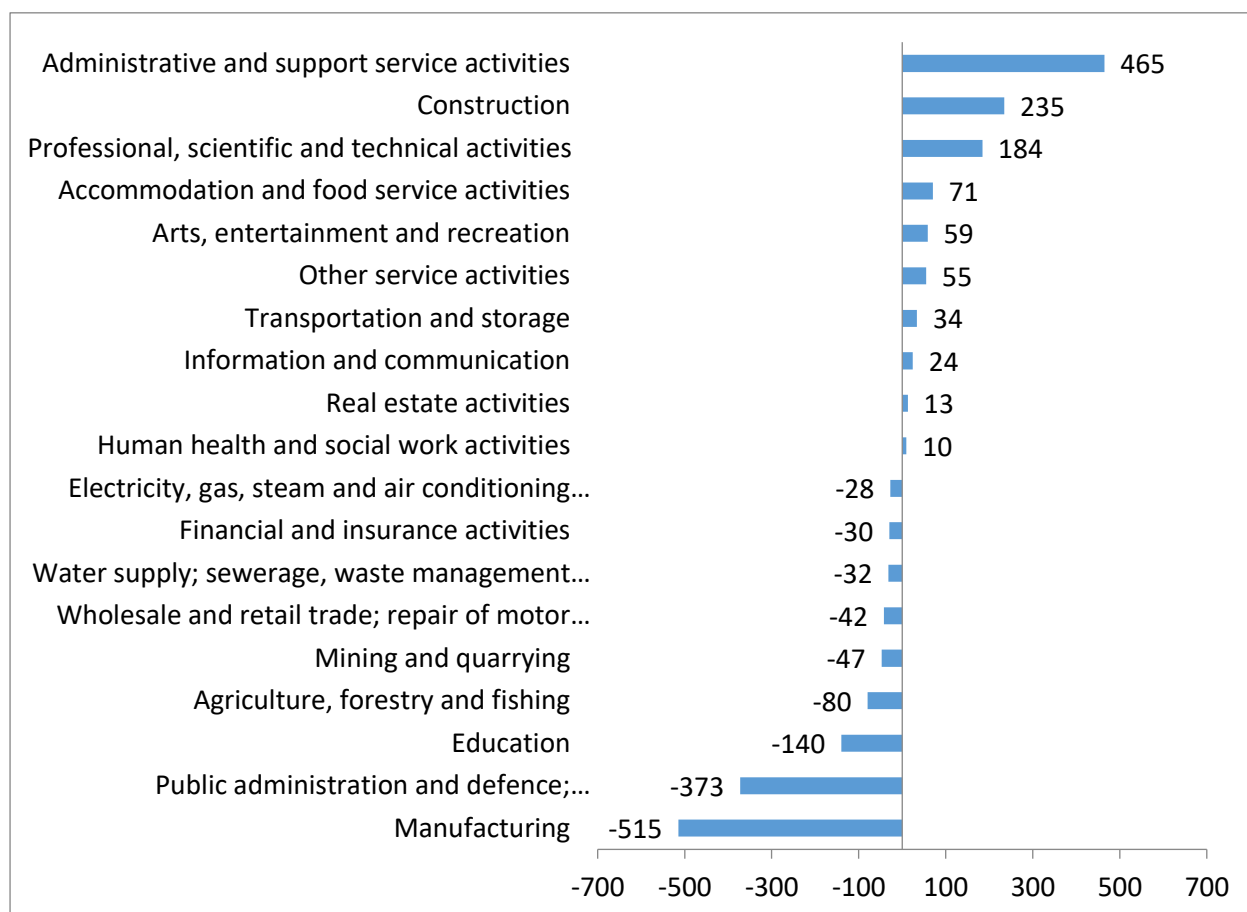
In this case we would recommend you study either History or Music, as we need to prioritise provision to best meet the needs of all learners. The subjects you require for University would still be open to you.

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.

S5 pupils moving into S6

The previous page contains important labour market intelligence that you may wish to consider before making decisions about what you would like to take in S6.

As you come to the end of S5, you have important decisions to make. For some of you, it may now be time to consider leaving school, for others you may wish to stay on to increase the portfolio of qualifications that you will leave school with. Others will wish to take Advanced Highers.

There is no doubt that S6 will also afford pupils the opportunity to develop leadership skills as part of the Senior Pupil Leadership Team. Some pupils in S5 may feel that another year at school will allow them to mature before moving on to college, university or employment.

Deciding to stay on in S6 is not a decision that you should take lightly. As a school, we are delighted when a young person chooses to stay with us, but there are also expectations of pupils in S6 as senior ambassadors for St. Joseph's Academy.

Our expectations are as follows:

- Complete support for the uniform policy, including blazer
- Commitment to ensure 100% attendance where possible
- Desire to demonstrate leadership by example via mentoring opportunities
- Commitment to support school events and activities

If you are unable to commit to the above, we would have concerns about your willingness to play your part in taking our school community forward, and of your maturity as senior pupil leaders. Our school needs committed, focussed S6 pupil leaders to set an example in relation to attendance, uniform, conduct and learning. If you are sure that you are prepared to commit to the wider life of the school, and the development of our ethos and culture then we recommend that you consider staying on.

We will ask all returning S6 pupils to sign an agreement stating that they are committed to the above. In relation to uniform, we will provide financial and material support where necessary and in complete confidence.

Pathways in S6

While not exhaustive, the following scenarios detail advice in relation to what we believe may be best in a number of different scenarios and should be considered before making a decision about whether or not you wish to be part of the S6 cohort next session.

I know that I need to stay on so that I can gain enough qualifications to apply for college, employment or university next year (excluding Advanced Highers which are addressed later in this guide)

If you are starting S6 with a need to increase your portfolio of attainment, we would highly recommend that you study four or five subjects in S6. Our experience shows that when requiring specific qualifications in S6 to secure entry to college or university, you are more likely to attain well if you study as many subjects as possible. The routine of classes and rigour of assessment are not lost on a timetable filled with four or five subjects. If you intend to return to study three subjects, we would recommend a meeting with the careers adviser to ensure that you are still able to attain the qualifications you require from a narrower starting point.

It would be highly unusual and not recommended for a young person who needs to enhance their portfolio of National 5 or Higher courses to study any less than four subjects.

I have accumulated the qualifications I need to secure a college place already

In our experience, if you have decided upon a college pathway and you have already attained what you require to begin your course, you may benefit from moving onto college at the end of S5. College provision can prepare you well for the world of work and open pathways to HNC or HND qualifications that are not possible in school. You should make an appointment with Miss Faulds as soon as possible.

Should you decide to stay on, you must be sure that you have the motivation levels necessary to attend classes on a timetable that may only be comprised of three subjects. Should you decide to apply for a College place, please check <http://www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/find-a-course/all-courses/> to find the courses on offer next year.

I have already accumulated the qualifications I need to secure a university place

We understand that moving on to University happens at the end of S6 for many young people, even if they have already attained the grades necessary to secure a place at University. We know that it is not unusual to stay on to accumulate additional Highers, Advanced Highers or leadership experience.

Sometimes there is a danger that with qualifications and unconditional offers already secured, pupils take the view that school is a part time setting. This is not the case. Should you only study three subjects next session, there would be an expectation that you undertake a leadership role within the school.

Other Advice

Advanced Highers

How do universities view Advanced Highers?
(extract from www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

In Scottish universities Advanced Highers are not usually required for entry, and, generally, it is more important to achieve the Highers required for entry level first before considering Advanced Highers.

For more competitive programmes, for example, medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, students are likely to need five Highers achieved in the fifth year, and then two advanced Highers and an additional Higher in the sixth year sitting.

In certain cases (particularly with science programmes) Advanced Highers may give you direct entry to a second year of a university programme.

It is also worth noting that if you don't get the set of Highers you want in fifth year then Advanced Highers (or a mixture of Highers and Advanced Highers) may make it more likely that a conditional place at university could be offered.

For instance, if you are wanting to compensate for a low Higher grade in a subject, a university may regard a C grade Advanced Higher as equal to a B grade Higher, and a B grade Advanced Higher as equal to an A grade Higher.

It is extremely important to always check specific entry requirements and talk directly to the universities if you have any doubts or questions about the Advanced Higher(s) or the combination of Highers and Advanced Highers you are considering in your sixth year.

Some Universities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland accept Highers for entry to their degree programmes, but many other institutions will, in addition, ask for up to three Advanced Highers. It is crucial to check entry requirements as early as possible with each university you are considering.

Our Advanced Higher Provision – 2019/20

Within East Ayrshire, it is common for each school to take on overall responsibility for at least one Advanced Higher. In recent years, we have offered Advanced Higher Languages (French and/or Spanish) and Advanced Higher Physics and have welcomed pupils from across East Ayrshire during class contact time. We have also managed to offer Advanced Higher Maths, Art, History and Music internally and where the timetable has allowed.

Advanced Highers are a valued part of our school curriculum. However, on an annual basis we need to review our Advanced Higher provision in light of the legal obligation we have to deliver the BGE (S1-S3 curriculum) and to provide S4-S5 pupils with the chance to sit National 5 and Higher qualifications. We had to follow the same process to ensure that we could deliver the S1-S5 curriculum during your time in S1-S5.

At the time of writing, we will continue to offer Advanced Higher Languages as part of our timetable in 2019/20. Decisions in relation to Advanced Higher Maths, Physics, History and Music are likely to be made by May 2020.

Advanced Higher Art will often run 'off timetable', meaning that pupils will be given access to an Art room throughout the week, with teaching support made available as and when necessary.

Until we receive confirmation of our staffing allocation, our S1 intake and complete the timetable for next year's S1-S5 curriculum, we are unable to commit to Advanced Higher provision beyond Art and Modern Languages.

We need to wait for all other schools to confirm their intentions before we will be in a position to notify next year's S6 students of the Advanced Higher courses on offer here and across East Ayrshire. We will pass this information on to pupils and parents/carers as soon as possible and hope to offer an interim update shortly after the Easter break.

As schools across East Ayrshire move to a new timetable at different times, it is not unusual for Advanced Higher courses to begin in August as opposed to May or June. It is also not unusual for class contact time to sit at three periods per week, with three self-directed periods of study (as an alternative to being unable to offer an Advanced Higher across six periods).

UCAS

While you may have applied via UCAS in S5, you may reapply or apply for the first time in S6. UCAS is the management system used to process applications for college and university courses. You will receive support early in the session from your Pastoral Care teacher and will have to write a personal statement. More information will be shared with you at the start of next session. In the interim, it may be a good idea to start to collate your personal statement, drawing on experience of leadership and participation both within and outwith school.

The school will also be asked to provide input in the form of a reference. We will include comment on your commitment to the wider life of the school and would stress the importance of the expectations detailed earlier.

We can guarantee a wide range of opportunities in relation to pupil leadership, work experience, intergenerational projects, parish partnerships, community action plan input and Duke of Edinburgh opportunities. You should aim to take up as many leadership opportunities as you can to enhance your UCAS application. We caution against signing up for leadership roles but not fulfilling the obligations of the role. While we will do all we can to support you, we will not make false statements about your commitment to the school, leadership, attendance, uniform and ethos. We will draw on your dedication and commitment to the school to ensure that we provide an accurate, honest and full reference.

Foundation Apprenticeships

Foundation Apprenticeships are a Skills Development Scotland (SDS) initiative, providing new, work-based learning opportunities for learners in their senior phase of secondary education. Foundation Apprenticeships enable young people to complete elements of a Modern Apprenticeship while still at school.

In the past, pupils had to access college provision to complete a Foundation Apprenticeship. Next session (2020/21), two Foundation Apprenticeships will be on offer in schools within East Ayrshire. **Food and Drink Technologies** will be based at Loudon Academy, and all transport costs will be supported centrally for pupils travelling from St. Joseph's. Kilmarnock Academy will also offer a Foundation Apprenticeship in **Social Services, Children and Young People**.

These courses are mainly aimed at S6 pupils, but consideration can be given to S5 pupils. While there are no entry requirements, pupils should be prepared to work at around Higher level (SCQF6). Universities are now recognising the completion of a Foundation Apprenticeship as equivalent to a Higher qualification. Progression **can** lead to a Modern Apprenticeship, whereby you take up employment upon leaving school and have the chance to complete accredited work-based qualifications.

Should you wish to undertake a Foundation Apprenticeship, you will be out of school for two days per week. You will spend one day per week at Loudon Academy or Kilmarnock Academy, where you will complete class-based learning, and one day a week on a work placement. It is likely that you would be out of school every Tuesday and every Thursday.

As you would be out of school for two days per week, you would likely miss out on significant elements of internal courses. You need to carefully consider the impact that missing two days of school every week will have on your ability to complete courses in school. Nevertheless, this is a fantastic opportunity for pupils who know that they wish to pursue a career in the areas mentioned above.

Information on Foundation Apprenticeships delivered solely by Ayrshire College can be found on page 10. If interested in a Foundation Apprenticeship offered by Ayrshire College, you would need to apply to Ayrshire College. We can support you with your application.

What happens next?

If you are currently in S4 and skipped the section for S5 into S6 pupils, please read the previous page on Foundation Apprenticeships. The rest of this booklet provides you with information on each subject on offer in S5/6. 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, Miss Faulds who will talk to you about planning for the future
- S3 My World of Work Ambassadors will be on hand to offer support next week to pupils currently in S4 and S5 who require access to the MyWoW website
- A member of the Senior Leadership team will carry out personalisation and choice interviews and talk to you about the decisions that you intend to make
- Finally, and most importantly, you will complete your options form in discussion with your parents or carers

S4/5 into S5/6 Personalisation and Choice Form

Pupil Name:

Career Aspiration:



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Circle the five subjects you would like to study next session. At the time of writing, the following courses will run unless numbers are so low that they are not viable.

Higher Maths	Advanced Higher Art	National 5 English	Higher Biology	Higher Design and Manufacture
National 5 Maths	Advanced Higher Modern Languages	National 5 History	National 5 Biology	National5 Design and Manufacture
National 5 Chemistry	National 5 PE	Higher History	Higher Music	Practical Woodworking (N4 or N5)
Higher Chemistry	Higher PE	National 5 Music	Higher Politics (S6 only)	Higher Geography
College Provision	Higher Physics	National 5 Modern Studies	Higher French	National 5 Spanish
National 5 Physics	Higher Modern Studies	National 5 French	Higher English	Higher Art
National 5 Art and Design	Creative Industries (SCQF4 and 5)	Higher Spanish	National 5 Geography	Sport and Recreation (SCQF4, 5)
People in Society and Travel and Tourism (N4/N5)		National 5 German (S6 Only)	Higher German (S6 Only)	Higher Computing
National 4 Application of Maths		National 5 Spanish		

I wish to apply for a Foundation Apprenticeship (circle as appropriate)

Food and Drink Technology (Loudon)

Ayrshire College Foundation Apprenticeships

Social Services, Children and Young People (Kilmarnock Academy)

Other Advanced Highers (Pending confirmation from partner schools/college and internal viability, please circle as appropriate)

AH Chemistry

AH English

AH Music

AH Physics

AH Biology

AH Maths

AH History

Caritas (S6 only)

Yes

No

Pupil Signature:

Parent/Carer Signature:

SLT Signature:

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&I</i>	Jan	<i>Prelim Expressive R&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&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

Higher Art and Design: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



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

Higher Art and Design Course Information

Higher art candidates attend classes six 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 60 marks and externally assessed

The Art and Design SQA Exams will take place on: 28th March 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	Critical studies starts. Design R&I	Jan	Prelim Expressive R&I
Sep	Design initial ideas	Feb	Expressive Dev
Oct	Design Dev	Mar	Expressive folio deadline
Nov	Design folio deadline	Apr	Exam Prep
Dec	Expressive folio R&I	Key R&I	Research and investigation

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher 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 Higher 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

Higher 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)
- @stjoaccs (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

Advanced Higher Art and Design: Guide for

February 20219



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Advanced Higher Art and Design course for Session 2019/20.



Advanced Higher Art and Design Course Information

Advanced Higher art candidates attend classes six periods per week but work independently upon a personal project. The teacher acts as the facilitator and will provide regular support and tutorials.

Pupils prepare either a Design or an Expressive unit throughout the year which is linked with a Contextual studies unit all linked to the practical folio. **There is no examinations.**

Pupils are assessed in one practical component:

Expressive folio worth 100 marks 16(A1) Sheets

or a

Design folio worth 100 marks 16(A1) sheets all externally assessed.

Contextual studies consisting of 2000 words
A 400 word evaluation all externally assessed.

Assessment

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

Personal tutorials, and Peer tutorials relating SQA Requirements to the candidates work.

At the end of May all work is sent for assessment to Edinburgh.

Aug	R & I	Feb	Final
Sep	R & I	Mar	Final
Oct	R & I	Apr	Final
Nov	Dev	May	Final Work to SQA
Dec	Dev		
Jan	Dev	R & I Dev	Research & investigation Development

Homework and Supported Study

All candidates studying Advanced Higher Art and design will always have tasks they should be working on at home. Homework will take the form of personal research and analysis of specific artists or designers work that links to there practical coursework folio.

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.

The pace of the Advanced Higher Art and design course is intense as pupils are expected to create a lot of work and there is an expectation that every pupil during some free lesson will be working in the Art Department as well as spending at least two hours per week developing coursework in there own time.

The Assignment

Advanced Higher Art and design pupils will -

In the *Expressive Folio* pupils develop their personal thoughts and ideas in visual form and experiment with media. This can incorporate printing, sculpture, clay, painting, mixed media, photography etc.

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. Students can explore textiles, jewellery, graphics, costume design etc.

Advanced Higher candidates need to be aware that the course 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 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/QUIZZ/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)
- QUIZZ — <https://quizizz.com/admin/search/Stjosephsbiology>
- BBC bitesize — <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zync87h>
- Oronsay — <http://www.oronsay.org/Nat5.htm>
- Revision in a nutshell — 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>

Higher Biology: Guide for Parents and Carers



November 2018



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

Higher Biology Course Information

Higher Biology candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- DNA and the Genome
- Metabolism and Survival
- Sustainability and Interdependence

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1— Multiple Choice questions (25 marks / 40 minutes)
- Question Paper 2— Restricted response and extended response (95 marks / 2 hours and 20 minutes)
- The Assignment— A report researched and written in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked (20 marks / 2 hours)

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
- Timed essays in class.

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

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher 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. The pace of the Higher Biology 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 at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic
- Using the resources on SCHOLAR/QUIZZ/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 Higher Biology students 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 2 hours to complete their report.

Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/scienceresources/higher/biology/>
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47912.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- All pupils will be given access to SCHOLAR online and iTunesU courses via their class teacher, these contain a wealth of resources.
- Quizlet wordbanks: <https://quizlet.com/class/2880544/>
- Quizizz online quizzes: <https://quizizz.com/profile/5b279dc35d6073001972625f>

Advanced Higher Biology: Guide for Parents and Carers



February 2019



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Advanced Higher Biology course for Session 2019/20.

Advanced Higher Biology Course

Information

Advanced Higher Biology candidates attend college four periods a week and two periods allocated to study the subject in school (tbc). Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Cells and proteins
- Organisms and evolution
- Investigative biology

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Question Paper – Multiple Choice questions (20 marks), Structured items (80 marks).
- The Project— A report researched and written based on a practical investigation designed by the student which is sent to SQA to be marked (30 marks scaled to 40 marks)

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
- Timed essays in class.

Pupils will usually 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.

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Advanced Higher 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. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Advanced Higher Biology 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 at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic
- Using the resources on SCHOLAR/QUIZZ/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 Project

All Advanced Higher Biology candidates will complete a project which contributes 25% of their final grade. The project 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 project-report should be between 3000 and 3600 words in length excluding the title page, contents page, tables, graphs, diagrams, calculations, reference, acknowledgments and any appendices.

Useful Resources

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47912.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- Pupils will be given access to SCHOLAR online courses via their class teacher, these contain a wealth of resources.
- Quizlet wordbanks: <https://quizlet.com/>

Other out of school activities which will benefit Advanced Higher Biologists include:

- * Reading
- * Visiting local library for reading/ research
- * Watching news/ reading newspapers

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/>

Higher Chemistry: Guide for Parents and Carers



November 2018



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

Higher Chemistry Course Information

Higher Chemistry candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study four units throughout the year:

- Chemical changes and structure
- Nature's chemistry
- Chemistry in society
- Researching chemistry

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1— Multiple Choice questions (25 marks / 40 minutes)
- Question Paper 2— Restricted response and extended response (95 marks / 2 hours and 20 minutes)
- The Assignment— A report researched and written in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked (20 marks / 2 hours)

The Biology 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 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:

Sept	Unit 1 assessment	Jan	Prelim
Dec	Unit 3 assessment	Mar	Unit 2 assessment
Dec	Assignment <i>Research and communication (up to 8 hours of class time)</i>	May	Final exam

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher 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. The pace of the Higher Chemistry 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 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 Higher Chemists 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 2 hours to complete their report.

Useful Resources

- Science Glow blog—<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/scienceresources/higher/higher-chemistry/>
- SQA—<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47913.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- Evan2Chem - <https://www.evans2chemweb.co.uk/>

Username: stjosephs Password: initial

- BBC Bitesize—<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zjmtsbk>
- Revision in a nutshell—<https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/higher-chemistry/>

Advanced Higher Chemistry: Guide for Parents and Carers



February 2019



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Advanced Higher Chemistry course for Session 2019/20.

Advanced Higher Chemistry Course

Information

Advanced Higher Chemistry candidates attend college four periods a week and two periods allocated to study the subject in school (tbc). Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Inorganic and Physical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry and Instrumental Analysis
- Researching Chemistry

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Question Paper – Multiple Choice questions (25 marks), restricted and extended response questions (85marks).
- The Project— A report researched and written based on a practical investigation designed by the student which is sent to SQA to be marked (25 marks scaled to 40 marks).

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 usually 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.

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Advanced Higher 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. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Advanced Higher Chemistry 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 at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic
- Using the resources on SCHOLAR/QUIZZ/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 Project

All Advanced Higher Chemistry candidates will complete a project which contributes 25% of their final grade. The project 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 project-report should be between 2500 and 4500 words in length excluding the title page, contents page, tables, graphs, diagrams, calculations, reference, acknowledgments and any appendices.

Useful Resources

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47912.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- Pupils will be given access to SCHOLAR online courses via their class teacher, these contain a wealth of resources.
- Quizlet wordbanks: <https://quizlet.com/>

Other out of school activities which will benefit Advanced Higher Chemists include:

- * Reading
- * Visiting local library for reading/ research
- * Watching news/ reading newspapers

Higher Computing Science: Guide for Parents and Carers

January 2020



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Higher Computing Science course for Session 2020/21.



Higher Computing Science Course Information

Higher Computing Science candidates attend classes 6 periods a week.

Pupils will study 4 main units throughout the year.

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

Assessment

In addition to frequent class tests and activities, there are 2 formally assessed components of the course:

- Practical Assignment (50 marks)
- Question paper (110 marks)

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

Specific coursework timings will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

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

Course Overview

Computing Systems- Candidates will learn how computer data is stored in binary form and factors affecting system performance. They will gain an awareness of the environmental impact of the energy use of computing systems and security precautions that can be taken to protect computer systems.

Software Design and Development- Candidates will develop knowledge and understanding of advanced computational constructs and problem-solving skills. They will build upon their skills from the N5 course to design, create and test efficient computer programs using Visual Basic.

Database Design and Development- Candidates will build upon their knowledge of relational databases through the design and creation of databases with multiple tables. They will use the database language SQL to implement and query the database.

Web Design and Development- Candidates will design and create multi-page websites using HTML, CSS and JavaScript. They will develop their skills from N5 and be introduced to advanced concepts.

The Assignment

The purpose of the assignment is to assess the practical application of knowledge and skills from across the course 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)

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
- W3schools.com
- Class Resources (on *Show My Homework*)

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

- Creating and developing computer programs and websites

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

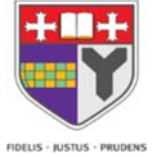
Learners can use the available course note textbooks in the department before school, break and lunchtime. Additional resources can be found below:

- Technologystudent.com
- 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

Higher Design and Manufacture: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



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

Higher Design and Manufacture Course Information

Higher 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 (90 marks)
- Question paper (80 marks)

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

The Higher 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/Model Making

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>Analyse a Design Brief</i>	Feb	<i>Assignment</i>
Oct		Mar	
Nov	<i>Develop Design Proposal</i>	Apr	
Dec	<i>Analyse and Plan a commercial Product</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:

- Research and Analysis of a Brief
- Design Factors & People that influence Design
- Idea Generation and Modelling in Design
- Graphics in Design
- Common Materials and uses
- Commercial Manufacture Processes and Assembly
- Production planning systems
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Impact of Design and Manufacture Technologies

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 has 90 marks out of a total of 170 marks for the course assessment.

The assignment assesses the ability of candidates to apply design skills to develop a proposal according to a set brief. It is set by the SQA annually, completed under controlled conditions and sent to the SQA for marking. Marks are awarded as follows:

- carrying out research into a given brief (5 marks)
- producing a specification (3 marks)
- generating initial ideas (8 marks)
- exploring ideas (12 marks)
- refining ideas (6 marks)
- applying knowledge and understanding of materials and assembly processes (10 marks)
- applying knowledge and understanding of design (12 marks)
- applying graphic techniques (12 marks)
- demonstrating practical modelling skills (8 marks)
- producing a plan for commercial manufacture (6 marks)
- applying modelling techniques (8 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
- BBC Bitesize

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.

Higher English: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



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

Higher English Course Information

Higher English candidates attend classes six periods per week. 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 two passages and answer 30 marks worth of questions (1h 30mins)
- 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:

Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 9am

Assessment

One internal Unit Assessment within Higher 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 Higher 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 Higher 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 Higher English candidates must produce two pieces of writing no more than 1300 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

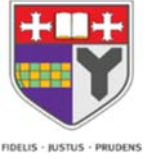
Pupils will be working on this from June 2018.

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 course and at Higher pupils are not rewarded marks for simply stating techniques. 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.



Advanced Higher English: Guide for Parents and Carers

September 2018



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

Advanced Higher English Course Information

Advanced Higher English candidates study and develop skills in:

- Textual Analysis
- Critical Reading of Literature from at least two different genres
- Writing a portfolio
- Planning and creating a dissertation

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- question paper1: where learners will write a critical essay on drama, poetry, prose fiction or prose non fiction,
- and undertake a textual analysis on drama, poetry, prose fiction or prose non fiction, demonstrating an in-depth knowledge and understanding of complex and sophisticated literary text(s)
- The Portfolio—two pieces of writing are completed and submitted to the SQA
- Completing a Project-Dissertation

Internal Assessment

Currently Unit Assessments still need to be completed in Advanced Higher English:

- Analysis and Evaluation of literary texts
- Creation and Production

Other assessments throughout the year will take the form of:

- Timed essays
- Timed textual analysis
- 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 Advanced Higher 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. All 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; a great deal of independent study is required at AH level as the pace of the 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/Dissertation

All AH English candidates must produce two pieces of writing of at least 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

The Dissertation is also worth 30% of the final mark. This Added Value consists of challenge and application: the candidates will build on the skills they have acquired in the *Analysis and Evaluation of Literary Texts* Unit and apply them with greater independence. The dissertation should be between 2,500-3,000 words, including quotations but excluding footnotes and bibliography.

This assessment has three stages:

- A planning stage which should be completed over a period of time.
- A development/research stage which should be completed over a period of time.
- A writing stage which should be completed over a period of time.

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

Higher Geography: Guide for Parents and Carer



September 2018



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

Higher Geography Course Information

Higher Geography candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study four units throughout the year:

- Human Environments
- Physical Environments
- Global Issues
- Applications of Geographical Skills

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1—covering Human and Physical Environments worth 100 marks (1 hour 50 mins)
- Question Paper 2—Global Issues and Geographical Skills worth 60 marks (1 hour 10 minutes)
- The Assignment—a 30 mark write up of a report which pupils write in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked

The Geography SQA Exams will take place on:

Tuesday 28th May 2019

Assessment

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

- Timed exam style questions
- End of topic tests
- Knowledge tests
- Homework tasks

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The timed exam style questions and end of topic tests 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	Population	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Hydro-sphere	Feb	Assignment
Oct	Lithosphere	Mar	Rural and Biosphere
Nov	Urban	Apr	River Basin Management
Dec	Atmosphere and Climate Change	Apr	Timed exam questions Exam Prep

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher Geography will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of answering exam style questions or writing reports. 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, Mrs Fulton 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 Higher Geography 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 completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

The Assignment

All Higher Geography candidates must produce a report on a topic of their choice as part of the course. This is worth 30 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 hypothesis
- Identify suitable methods of gathering data (carry out field work)
- Produce two 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.

Useful Resources

- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zmhs34j> (BBC Bitesize Higher Geography—Revision Notes, Quizzes, Video Clips)
- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoachighergeography/>



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)

Other out of school activities which will benefit Higher Geographers include:

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

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

Higher History: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



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

Higher History Course Information

Higher History candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- British: Britain 1851–1951
- European & World: Nazi Germany & The Cold War
- Scottish: Migration & Empire

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1—an essay based exam paper worth 44 marks (1h 30 mins)
- Question Paper 2—a source based exam paper worth 36 marks (1h 30 mins)
- The Assignment—a 30 mark essay pupils write in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked

The History SQA Exams will take place on:

Monday 13th May 2019

Assessment

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

- Timed essays
- Timed Source Questions
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework essays

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	Women TE	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Nazis 1 & Liberals 1 TE	Feb	Assignment
Oct	Nazis 2 & Liberals 2 TEs	Mar	Scottish TS
Nov	Cold War TEs	Apr	Various TE/ TS
Dec	Labour TEs/ Scottish TS	Key	TE (Timed Essay) TS (Timed Source Questions)

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher History 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 source 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 Higher History 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 Higher History candidates must produce an extended essay on a topic of their choice as part of the course. This is worth 30 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 and write the essay
- Create a 250 word resource sheet
- Learn the essay

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019.

Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoachigherhistory/> (*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/zxpf9b9q> (BBC Bitesize Higher History—Revision Notes, Quizzes, Video Clips)

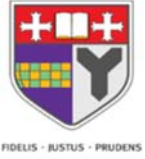


@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)
@mrmarrhistory (Mr Marr's Twitter page)

Other out of school activities which will benefit Higher Historians include:

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

Advanced Higher History: Guide for Parents and Carers



January 2020



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Advanced Higher History course for Session 2020/21.

Advanced Higher History Course Information

- Advanced Higher History candidates attend classes six periods per week.
- Pupils study one broad topic over the course of the year - **Germany: From Democracy to Dictatorship.**

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Exam Paper**— one 3 hour exam paper during the April/May exam diet. Pupils answer two essays questions from a choice of five and three source questions. This accounts for 64% of the overall course award.
- Dissertation:** pupils complete a 4000 word dissertation on a topic of their choosing based on the wider Germany unit studied in class. This is completed over the course of the school year and sent to the SQA for external marking. This accounts for 36% of the overall course award.

Assessment

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

- Timed essays
- Timed Source Questions
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework essays

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>Weimar Republic/ Dissertation work</i>	Jan	<i>Prelim and Revision work</i>
Sep	<i>How the Nazis gained power</i>	Feb	<i>Nazi persecution of minorities</i>
Oct	<i>Dissertation and Source Question work</i>	Mar	<i>Dissertation completion/ Source work</i>
Nov	<i>Nazi Social and economic policies</i>	Apr	<i>Resistance to Nazi rule in Germany</i>
Dec	<i>Dissertation work</i>		

Classwork, Homework and Studying

Advanced Higher History is a university preparatory course and, as such, requires pupils to have the drive and discipline to complete self-study and revision at home each week, with direction from the class teacher. The majority of self-study will take the form of formal reading and essay based work—reading journal articles and historical textbooks; essay preparation; dissertation research and source question practice.

Candidates studying Advanced Higher History will always have tasks they should be working on at home. **Set pieces of homework which require a submission to teachers will be issued regularly however, all Advanced Higher History pupils must be prepared to carry out extensive reading and preparation work of their own.** The pace of the Advanced Higher History course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least two—three 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 and does not reflect exam conditions.

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

The Assignment

All Advanced Higher History candidates must produce a 4000 dissertation, in the form of an extended essay, on a topic of their choice as part of the course. This is worth 50 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
- Complete the dissertation including referencing as required.

Pupils will be working on this from June 2020 and it is anticipated that pupils will spend one day at the University of Glasgow, accompanied by their class teacher, completing primary source research in either June, August or September depending on library availability.

Useful Resources

- <https://mrmarrhistory.wordpress.com/> (Mr Marr's Website)
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- @mrmarrhistory (Mr Marr's Twitter page)

Other out of school activities which will benefit Advanced Higher Historians include:

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

N4 Applications: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the N4 Applications course for Session 2020/21.

N4 Applications Course Information

N4 Applications candidates attend classes 6 periods per week. This course is designed for students who have passed N4 Maths and are looking to gain an additional Maths award at the same level.

Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Numeracy
- Managing finance and statistics.
- Geometry and measure.

Pupils will also sit an added value exam to gain the full award.

Added value consists of two papers.

Paper 1 is non-calculator

Paper 2 is calculator.

These assessments are internally assessed. This means that the class teacher will mark all work.

Assessment

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

- Unit assessments
- Added value

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

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying N4 Applications of Maths should have enough time to complete the course-work during class time. Candidates will need to revise prior to unit assessments at home to be fully prepared for these.

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.

Pupils must carry out regular revision at home. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes and practicing questions.
- Revisiting homework exercises and doing corrections.
- Completing practice 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 practice paper questions completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/marking.

Useful Resources

- www.bbc.com/bitesize
You Tube
- Andrew Gibson maths
- DLB maths

@stjoacadmaths (Maths dep twitter)



Best Advice: Take advantage of after school support and attempt as many practice papers as you can. Make sure your attendance is excellent.

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.

FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

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 (RUAE)
- 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 RUAE 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 RUAE 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 RUAE 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

- RUAE is the most challenging element of the National 5 course. In order for pupils to prepare themselves for the sophisticated language encountered in the RUAE 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.

Higher Mathematics: Guide for Parents and Carers

September 2018



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



FIDELIS - JUSTUS - PRUDENS

Higher Maths Course Information

Higher Maths candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Relationships and Calculus
- Expressions and Functions
- Applications

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Question Paper 1— 70 marks. 1 hour 30 mins
- Question Paper 2— 80 marks. 1 hour 45 mins

The Higher Maths SQA Exams will take place on:

Thursday 2nd May 2019 at 9am

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher 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. 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 formal Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Higher 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.

Assessment

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

- Class assessments
- Prelim exams
- Formal homework

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	<i>Expressions and Functions unit</i>
Sep	<i>September progress Test</i>	Feb	
Oct	<i>Relationships and Calculus unit assess.</i>	Mar	<i>Applications unit assess.</i>
Nov	<i>November progress test.</i>	Apr	<i>Prelim 2</i>
Dec	<i>Prelim 1</i>	Key	Final exam

Useful Resources

- www.mathsrevision.com-Higher
- www.bbc.com/bitesize
- www.highermathematics.co.uk

You Tube

- Andrew Gibson maths
- DLB maths

@stjoacadmaths (Maths Department Twitter)



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

Advanced Higher Mathematics: Guide for Parents and Carers

February 2019



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Advanced Higher Maths course for Session 2019/20



FIDELIS - JUSTUS - PRUDENS

Advanced Higher Maths Course Information

Advanced higher maths is a challenging course which will help to prepare students for University. Many topics will be found in a 1st year University maths course.

Advanced Higher Maths candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Relationships and Calculus
- Expressions and Functions
- Applications

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Question Paper 1— Non-Calculator. 35 marks, 1 hour
- Question Paper 2— Calculator 80 marks, 2hours 30 mins.

Assessment

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

- Class assessments
- Prelim exams

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	
Sep	<i>September progress test.</i>	Feb	<i>Prelim 1</i>
Oct		Mar	
Nov	<i>November progress test.</i>	Apr	<i>Prelim 2</i>
Dec	<i>December progress test.</i>	Key	Final exam

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Advanced Higher 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 personal study. 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. 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.

Pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Advanced Higher Math course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least seven hours per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes and practicing questions.
- 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.

Please note that this course is being updated for session 2018-19.

Useful Resources

- www.advancedhighermaths.co.uk
- Dynamic maths.
- www.bbc.com/bitesize
- You Tube
- DLB maths

@stjoacadmaths (Maths Department Twitter)



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

National 5 Modern Languages: Guide for Parents and Carers



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the National 5 Modern Languages courses

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—completed in school under exam conditions—30 marks

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> <i>German Listening and Reading</i>
Jan	<i>French Talking and Writing</i>
Feb	<i>Writing Assignment</i> <i>Performance—Talking</i> <i>German Talking and Writing</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 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

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

Higher Modern Languages: Guide for Parents and Carers



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Higher Modern Languages courses.

Higher Modern Languages Course Information

Higher languages candidates attend classes six 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 Directed Writing (2 hours).
- 2) Question Paper 2—Listening (30 mins).
- 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—conversation in school under exam conditions—30 marks

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:

Sep	<i>French Listening</i> <i>Spanish Reading and Writing</i>
Oct	<i>French Reading</i>
Dec	<i>Spanish Listening and Talking</i> <i>French Writing Assignment</i> <i>French Talking and Writing</i> <i>German Listening and Reading</i>
Jan	<i>Prelims</i>
Feb	<i>Spanish Writing Assignment</i> <i>German Writing Assignment</i> <i>German Talking and Writing</i> <i>Talking Exams</i>

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher Modern Languages will always have a range of tasks to be working on at home. Key to success at Higher is to be familiar with the grammar and structure of the foreign language and be able to use 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 directed writing and the course workbooks have a huge range of practice pieces.

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 from January.

Regular revision at home is essential for pupils to achieve passes in Higher 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 iTunesU to access past papers including listening papers
- Developing a range of phrases and structures for essay writing
- Scholar

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 Discursive 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 course-work 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.

Useful Resources

- <https://courses.scholar.hw.ac.uk/vle/scholar/> - PUPILS HAVE PASSWORDS
- <https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm>
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://language-gym.com/#/>

Other out of school activities which will benefit Higher Linguists include:

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

AH Modern Languages: Guide for Parents



February 2019



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the AH Languages courses for Session 2019/2020

AH Modern Languages Course Information

AH candidates attend classes around three periods per week. Pupils study three 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
- Literature Study

Pupils are assessed by four components:

- 1) Question Paper 1—Reading and translation(1h 30 mins). 50 marks
- 2) Question Paper 2—Listening and Discursive Essay (1 h 20 mins) 70 marks
- 3) Portfolio—a 30 mark critical essay written in English on literature study
- 4) Performance (Talking) A 20 minute conversation with a Visiting Assessor worth 50 marks

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 Writing and Talking</i>
Jan	<i>French Talking and Writing</i>
Feb	<i>Portfolio submission</i> <i>Performance—Talking</i>

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying AH Modern Languages will always have a range of tasks to be working on at home and the key to success at AH is to be able to be self motivated to undertake a significant degree of work independently. Pupils should be very familiar with complex grammar and structure of the foreign language and be able to recognise a range of tenses in the spoken and written language. Pupils will study a literary topic, either a short story, novel, poetry or film or a combination of these in the foreign language and write a critical response in English.

The course will continue to cover the four contexts pupils are familiar with from their Higher course but there will be a developed approach to understanding controversial topics and develop their opinions on current affairs.

Some topics discussed may be: Environmental Issues, The Role of Women in Society/the Workplace, Immigration, Current Political Events, Employability, Media & Technology, Lifestyles, Relationships and World Cultures.

The Performance or Talking assessed element of the course will consist of a 20 minute conversation with a Visiting Assessor usually in late February or early March. Pupils will sustain a natural conversation and discuss some of the topics covered in the course as well as the literature studied in class.

To achieve the best grade possible pupils should follow the following strategies:

- Organise each topic into key vocabulary
- Practice grammar using grammar booklets and online resources
- Memorise a range of good essay and talking phrases appropriate to AH
- Follow guidance and meet deadlines for folio submission

The Languages Baccalaureate

If a pupil is following two AH languages courses and has achieved a pass at Higher English they are eligible to work towards the achievement of the Languages Baccalaureate.

Pupils can choose a language related topic of their choice and carry out a mini interdisciplinary research project following the templates issued by the SQA. This is a very useful process for pupils intending to go to university as it allows them to develop independent research skills.

If a pupil is only pursuing the study of one AH in a Modern Language, they are still eligible to complete the project element of this award.

Useful Resources

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

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



Other out of school activities which are essential for AH language learners

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

National 5 Modern Studies: Information for parents & 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*

Higher Modern Studies: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



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

Higher Modern Studies Course Information

Higher Modern Studies candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom
- Social Inequality in the UK
- World Powers: The USA

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1—an essay based exam paper worth 52 marks (1h 45 mins)
- Question Paper 2—a source based exam paper worth 28 marks (1h 15 mins)
- The Assignment—a 30 mark report pupils write in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked

The Modern Studies SQA Exams will take place on: **Wednesday 1st May 2019**

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher Modern Studies 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 source 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 or after school. 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 Higher Modern Studies 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 or 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.*

Assessment

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

- Timed essays
- Timed Source Questions
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework essays

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	Voting Essay 1	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Voting Essay 2	Feb	Assignment & Social Inequalities
Oct	MSPs Essay & Pressure Groups Essay	Mar	Social Inequalities Essay 2 & 3
Nov	USA Essay 1 & 2	Apr	Various Revision Essays
Dec	USA Essay 3	Source Qs will be assessed throughout the course of the year	

The nature of Modern Studies means that Higher Modern Studies pupils are expected to remain up-to-date with national and international news on an ongoing basis. All pupils should be reading 3-4 articles from a broadsheet newspaper each week and watching a news programme such as BBC News, ITV News or Channel 4 News at least 3 times per week.

The Assignment

All Higher Modern Studies candidates must produce an extended report on a topic of their choice as part of the course. This is worth 30 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 factual sources
- Plan and write the report
- Create a clearly referenced resource sheet
- Learn the report

Pupils will be working on this from November 2018.

Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoacsseniormodernstudies/> (Miss Devaney's Blog)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> (BBC News website)
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/ztsvr82> (BBC Bitesize Higher Modern Studies—Revision Notes, Quizzes, Video Clips)



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)

Other out of school activities which will benefit Higher Modern Studies pupils include:

- * Watching documentaries and weekly news programmes e.g Panorama & BBC Question Time
- * Reading a good quality newspaper

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)



Higher Music: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



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

Higher Music Course Information

Higher Music candidates attend classes six 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 12 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 1pm

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>Renaissance Test</i>	Feb	<i>Perf. Exam</i>
Oct	<i>Baroque Test</i>	Mar	<i>Perf. Exam</i> <i>Assignment Deadline</i>
Nov	<i>Classical Test</i>	Apr	
Dec	<i>Performing Prelim—full 12 min. prog.</i>		

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher 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 Higher Understanding Music unit leaves little time for consolidation in class and therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour 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 Higher 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 Performing Exam

All Higher Music candidates must perform a 12-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/z8hv9j6>
- (BBC Bitesize Higher Music—Revision Notes, Quizzes, Video Clips)
- www.mymusiconline.co.uk (My Music Online)
- www.ataea.co.uk (Musipedia—specifically created for the SQA NQ Music Courses)



@stjoacadarts (Art and Music Department Twitter)

Advanced Higher Music: Guide for Parents and Carers



February 2019



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Advanced Higher Music course for Session 2019/20.

Advanced Higher Music Course Information

Higher Music candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three areas throughout the year:

- Performing Skills
- Understanding Music
- Composition Skills

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Performing Exam—programme of 18 minutes on two instruments (scaled to 50 marks/50%)
- Assignment — a composition with review and musical analysis (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 late April to mid May. The Understanding exam will take place in:

May 2020—Date TBC

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>Performance Checkin</i>	Feb	
Oct	<i>Analysis Task</i>	Mar	<i>Assignment Deadline</i>
Nov		Apr	
Dec	<i>Performing Prelim—50% of programme</i>	May	<i>Perf. Exam</i>

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Advanced Higher 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 Advanced Higher Understanding Music unit leaves little time for consolidation in class and therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour 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.

The Performing Exam

All Advanced Higher Music candidates must perform a 18-minute programme of pieces on two instruments to an SQA examiner in May. 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 February to give them adequate time to prepare for the final exam (in May). A prelim (50% of programme) will be held in December.

Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/artmusicresources/>
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- www.mymusiconline.co.uk (My Music Online)
- www.ataea.co.uk (Musipedia—specifically created for the SQA NQ Music Courses)

@stjoacarts (Art and Music Department Twitter)





People in Society and Travel and Tourism

⇒ **Guide for Parents and Carers**

Vocational Combined Social Information

Pupils will attend the department six periods per week. Pupils selecting this option will have the opportunity to achieve two National 4 courses and potentially one N5 Qualification. Pupils will study two courses;

Travel and Tourism (N4 or N5)

People in Society (N4)

There would also be potential for some pupils to work towards N4 Qualifications in Geography, History or Modern Studies dependent on progress throughout the year.

There are no formal examinations for these subjects. Pupils will be expected to complete a range of assessments, projects and portfolios throughout the year.

The Key Aims of each course are detailed below.

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

The main aims of the Travel & Tourism Course are to:

- ◆ provide learners with a broad introduction to the travel and tourism industry
- ◆ allow learners to experience a range of work related activities in relation to the travel and tourism industry
- ◆ encourage learners to develop skills for learning and life as well as work
- ◆ encourage learners to develop a good work ethic
- ◆ build learners' confidence
- ◆ encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning and development
- ◆ prepare learners for progression to further study or employment



It is important that pupils wishing to take this course have:

- Good attendance and timekeeping
- A positive attitude to classwork and ability to meet deadlines
- A willingness to engage in research, group work and role play



Successful learners may progress to:

- Further study of Travel & Tourism/ Social Sciences at college
- Employment in the Travel industry
- Training in the Travel industry
- Further study of vocational qualifications in the school

Find out more at:

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65336.html>
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45630.html>



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.

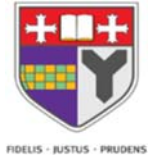
Unfortunately, we are unable to provide the candidate with their results as they are official SQA marks and will be submitted to them upon the completion of the assessment process.

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
- P.E. app accessible via pupil iPad



@StJosephsHWB



Higher Physical Education: Guide for

September 2018



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

Higher Physical Education Course Information

- Higher P.E. candidates attend classes six 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 – an exam lasting 2h 30 mins that will be split into three sections, worth 50 marks.
- Component 2– Performance assessment (2 performances marked out of 30) total marks awarded up to 60.

Higher Exam– Thursday 25th April 9:00-11:30am

Assessment

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

- Timed questions
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework tasks

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		Jan	Prelim
Sep	Factors Unit Test	Feb	
Oct	Gathering Information Unit Test	Mar	Mock Exam and Performance assessment
Nov	H/W Approaches	Apr	Exam
Dec	SQA Performance Assessment	Key	H/W– homework

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher Physical Education will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of 4-8 mark exam 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 Higher P.E. course leaves little time for consolidation given 4 of our 6 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 Past Papers at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

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

Practical Assessment

All candidates will be assessed practically on two separate occasions. The first assessment will take place on the week beginning 03/12/18 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 candidate's 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 supported study period to help them develop their performance further, prior to their assessment.

Useful Resources

- P.E. Wordpress accessible via departmental twitter page stjosephspe.wordpress.com
- P.E. app accessible via pupil iPad
- SQA Higher P.E. Past Paper



@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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Higher Physics: Guide for Parents and Carers



November 2018



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

Higher Physics Course Information

Higher Physics candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Our dynamic universe
- Particles and waves
- Electricity

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1— Multiple Choice questions (25 marks / 45 minutes)
- Question Paper 2— Restricted response and extended response (130 marks/ 2hours and 15 minutes)
- The Assignment— A report researched and written in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked (20 marks / 2 hours)

The Biology 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 Higher 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.

Class teachers offer supported study sessions at lunchtime, this additional support for any pupil who requires must 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 Higher Physics 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 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 Higher 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 2 hours to complete their report.

Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/scienceresources/higher/physics/>
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47916.html> (all SQA Past Papers)

Advanced Higher Physics: Guide for Parents and Carers



February 2019



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Advanced Higher Physics course for Session 2019/20.

Advanced Higher Physics Course

Information

Advanced Higher Physics candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Quanta and Waves
- Electromagnetism
- Investigating Physics

Pupils are assessed by two components:

- Question Paper – 155 marks (scaled to 120 marks, 3 hours).
- The Project— A report researched and written based on a practical investigation designed by the student which is sent to SQA to be marked (30 marks scaled to 40 marks).

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 usually 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.

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Advanced Higher 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. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Advanced Higher Physics 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 at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic
- Using the resources on SCHOLAR/QUIZZ/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 Project

All Advanced Higher Physics candidates will complete a project which contributes 25% of their final grade. The project 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 project-report should be between 2500 and 4500 words in length excluding the title page, contents page, tables, graphs, diagrams, calculations, reference, acknowledgments and any appendices.

Useful Resources

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47912.html> (all SQA Past Papers)
- Pupils will be given access to SCHOLAR online courses via their class teacher, these contain a wealth of resources.
- Quizlet wordbanks: <https://quizlet.com/>

Other out of school activities which will benefit Advanced Higher Physicists include:

- * Reading
- * Visiting local library for reading/ research
- * Watching news/ reading newspapers

Higher Politics: Guide for Parents and Carers

September 2018



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



Higher Politics Course Information

Higher Politics candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Political Theory
- Political Systems
- Political Parties & Elections

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1—an essay based exam paper worth 52 marks (1h 45 mins)
- Question Paper 2—a source based exam paper worth 28 marks (1h 15 mins)
- The Assignment—a 30 mark essay pupils write in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked

The Modern Studies SQA Exams will take place on: **Monday 29th April 2019**

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher Politics 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 source 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 Higher Modern Studies 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 or 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 should be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.

Assessment

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

- Timed essays
- Timed Source Questions
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework essays

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>P. Systems E 1</i>	Jan	<i>Prelim</i>
Sep	<i>P. Theory 1, P. Systems 2 & SQ 1</i>	Feb	<i>P. Parties & Elections 2 & SQ 4</i>
Oct	<i>P. Systems 3 & SQ 2</i>	Mar	<i>P. Parties & Elections 3, SQ 5</i>
Nov	<i>P. Parties & Elections 1</i>	Apr	<i>Various Revision Essays & SQ</i>
Dec	<i>SQ 3</i>		

The Assignment

All Higher Politics candidates must produce an extended report on a topic of their choice as part of the course. This is worth 30 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 factual sources
- Plan and write the report
- Create a 250 word resource sheet
- Learn the essay

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019.

Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoachigherpolitics/> (Class Blog)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> (BBC News website)
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <http://simplepolitics.co.uk/> (Simple Politics— up-to-date information on world politics)



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)

Other out of school activities which will benefit Higher Politics pupils include:

- * Watching documentaries and weekly news programmes e.g Panorama & BBC Question Time
- * Visiting local library for reading/ research
- * Reading a broadsheet newspaper

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
- 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 Sport and Recreation: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



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

Sport and Recreation Course

- Sport and Recreation candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils learning will surround Skills for Work material that will support them should they seek employment in the sporting industry.

Pupils are assessed by 4 units of work:

- **Unit 1 Assist with a component of an Activity Session**
- **Unit 2 Employment Opportunities in the Sport and Recreation Industry**
- **Unit 3 Assist with Fitness Programming**
- **Unit 4 Assist with Daily Centre Duties**

Candidates must achieve the minimum requirements of all units to achieve a pass in this course.

Course Overview:

Unit 1 Assist with a component of an Activity Session — learners will assist in the planning and delivery of a component within activity sessions for both a group and a single client, with their class teacher. Learners will carry out risk assessments and health and safety procedures laid out for the activity sessions. Learners will also assist in reviewing the activity session with other learners and the class teacher and use this review to inform the planning of future activity sessions. Learners will carry out emergency procedures within the activity environment and complete reports and review their performance with the person responsible.

Unit 2 Employment Opportunities in the Sport and Recreation Industry— In this unit, learners will source information about career pathways and identify the skills, qualifications and experience needed to pursue these. This will allow them to map their own skills, qualifications and experience against industry requirements. Using this information they will be able to identify areas where further training is required, produce a career plan and review this as necessary.

Unit 3 Assist with Fitness Programming—In this unit learners, working with the class teacher will learn how to develop and organise a physical training plan for a client. Learners will assist in establishing a client's fitness baseline taking into account the client's overall objectives. They will work with the class teacher to address aspects of health and safety, monitor the client's progress, carry out periodic monitoring of the client's physical training plan, review the results and modify the physical training plan.

Unit 4 Assist with Daily Centre Duties—In this unit, learners will gain experience in setting up and dismantling and storing equipment.

This course will be delivered to candidates in a number of forms that will include the following:

Learning through practical experience

Teaching/learning programmes will include some or all of the following:

- Learning in real or simulated workplace settings
- Learning through role play activities in vocational contexts
- Carrying out case study work
- Planning and carrying out practical tasks and assignments

Learning through reflecting at all stages of the experience

Teaching/learning programmes will include some or all of the following:

- Preparing and planning for the experience
- Taking stock throughout the experience, reviewing and adapting as necessary
- Reflecting after the activity has been completed, evaluating and identifying learning points

All candidates will be equipped with the necessary skills to complete each unit successfully. At the end of each unit the class teacher will complete an Assessor report and pupils must achieve a satisfactory against all assessment standards present within the unit.

The course is Pass or Fail.