

Welcome

S4/5 into S5/6 – Personalisation and Choice



School Prayer

God our Father, creator of the world,
you sent your son Jesus to be one of us
and to show us how to live in the way of love.
Inspire us with the Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts.
St. Joseph, guide our families and us on the path of life.
Support us by the example of our house patron saints.
Help us to live out our school values
by following your example of love every day of our lives.
St Joseph, pray for us.



Programme

- Kate Faulds – Careers Adviser, Skills Development Scotland
- Angela Buchanan – Acting Head Teacher



Programme

- SDS Advice
- Regional Skills Assessment
- SCQF Framework and Subject 'levels'
- Progression – With Examples
- College Provision
- Foundation Apprenticeships
- S6



RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

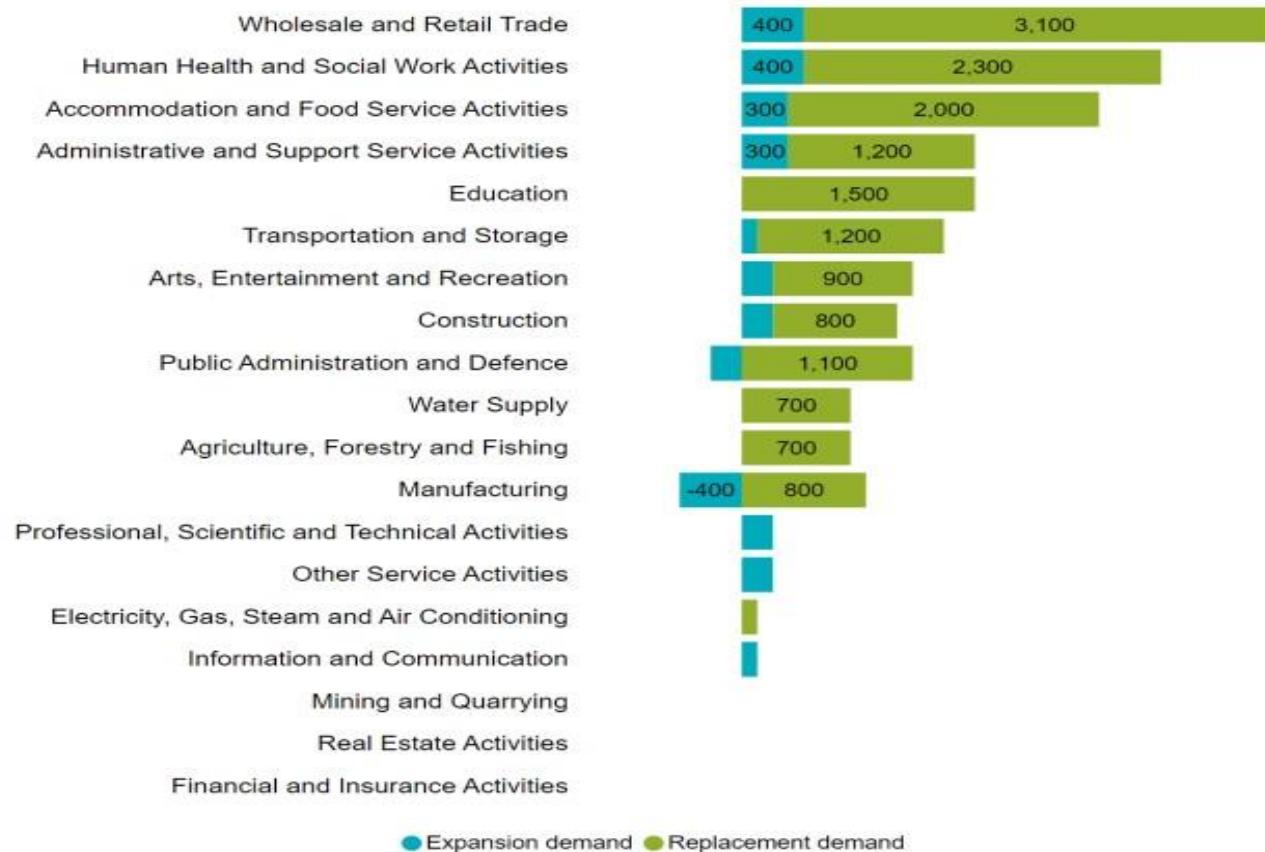
SERVICE

Regional Skills Assessment



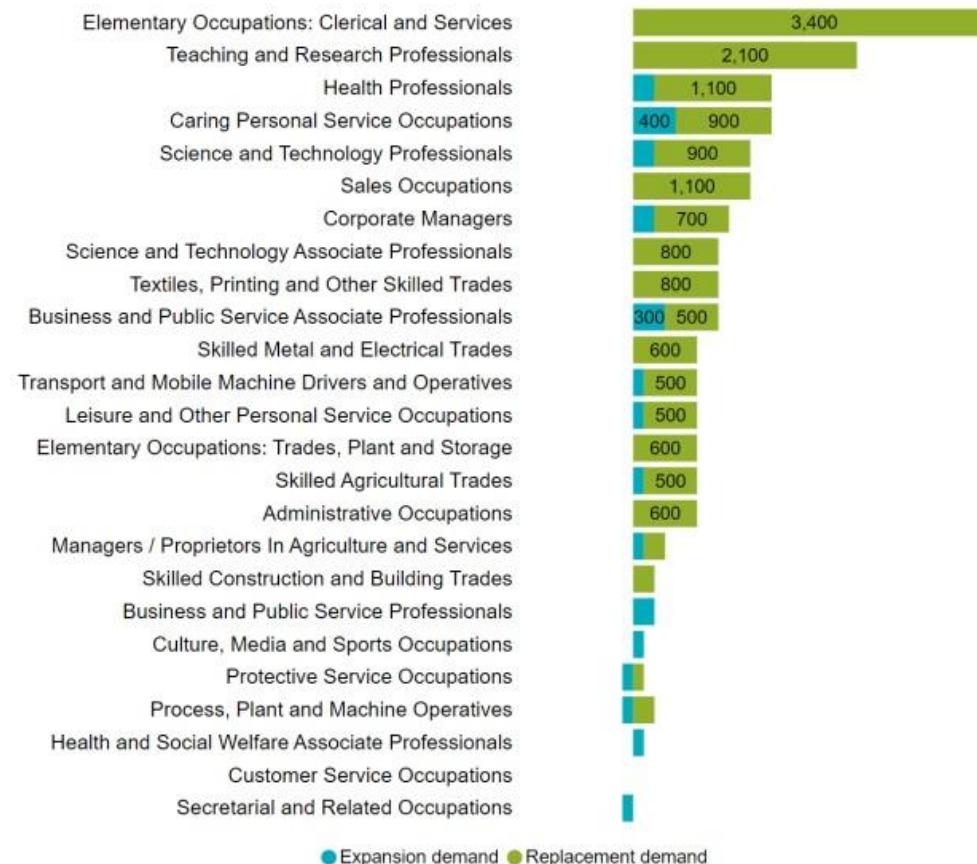
Regional Skills Assessment

Forecast Total Requirement by Industry (2024-2027), Ayrshire



Regional Skills Assessment

Forecast Total Requirement by Occupation (2024-2027), Ayrshire



Areas of Growth

By Industry

Wholesale and Retail

Human Health and Social Care

Accommodation and Food/Service

Administrative and Support Services

By Occupation

Clerical and Services

Teaching/Research

Health Professionals

Care Sector Employment

RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

SCQF Framework



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions		SVQs/MAs	
12					Doctoral Degree Professional Apprenticeship	
11					Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate Professional Apprenticeship SVQ 5	
10					Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate Professional Apprenticeship	
9			Professional Development Award		Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4	
8			Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4	
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate			Certificate Of Higher Education Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 3	
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher					Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ 3
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5					Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 2
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award			SVQ 1
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3					
2	National 2, Awards					
1	National 1, Awards					

Senior Phase Curriculum – SCQF Levels

Over the past few years our Senior Phase curriculum offer has been extended with the introduction of a number of new courses.

Subject departments offer National Qualifications ranging from National 3 to Higher, with a few offering Advanced Higher.

In addition, pupils have the opportunity to choose courses aligned to Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).

Our School College Partnership remains on offer and young people have the opportunity to engage in vocational qualifications delivered at SCQF Levels 4 - 7.



RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

Subject Choices



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

Structure of S5-S6 - Qualifications

S5

5 subjects

National/SCQF 4

National/SCQF 5

Higher/SCQF 6

Wider Achievement

College Provision

S6

Up to 5 subjects

National 5/SCQF5

Higher/SCQF6

Advanced Higher/SCQF7

College Provision

Wider Achievement

Foundation
Apprenticeships



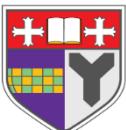
National 5s

Application of Maths	Art & Design
Biology	Business Management
Chemistry	Computing Science
Drama	English
French	Geography
German	History
Modern Studies	Music
PE	Physics
Spanish	



Highers

Administration and IT	Application of Maths	Art and Design
Biology	Business Management	Chemistry
Computing Science	Drama	English
ESOL	French	Geography
German	History	Maths
Modern Studies	Music	PE
Physics	Politics (S6)	Psychology (S6)
RMPS	Spanish	



Other SCQF 5 and/ or SCQF 6 Courses

NPA Criminology

NPA Dance (External provider)

Personal Finance

Creative Thinking

Sports Recreation/Leadership

Health Sector

Musical Theatre



Advanced Highers (TBC May 2026)

Art and Design

Biology

Chemistry

English

French

History

Maths

Music

Physics

Spanish



RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

S5 University Place Pathway

Advice and Guidance



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

General Advice for those wishing to go to University

- Study five Highers in S5 where possible, but no less than four if you intend to accumulate enough Highers to meet entry requirements for University courses
- If wanting to pursue a career in law, medicine, dentistry, optometry or veterinary studies, you must attain five strong (often A grade) Highers in S5
- For many courses, four strong Highers may be enough to secure entry to the course of your choice
- Commit the next year of your life to serious studying and familiarise yourself with the entry requirements for courses you are interested in
- Understand the increased demand of Higher courses (often more than double the content of N5 courses)



How do I prioritise subjects in S5?

- Those subjects listed as entry requirements for the university course(s) of your choice (presuming you pass National 5 in S4)
- 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



RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

Progression Data



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

Progression Statistics – National SQA Data

S4 'C' Pass at National 5	Progression to an 'A' to 'C' pass at Higher
Music Technology	68%
ESOL	65%
Music	56%
Business Management	54%
PE	52%
Modern Studies	52%
Geography	51%
Drama	49%
Art and Design	47%
RMPS	45%
Graphics	42%
Physics	36%
Mathematics	30%
Applications of Maths	29%
English	29%
French	27%
Spanish	27%
Computing	24%
History	24%
Biology	22%
Chemistry	21%

Statistics shown refer to data released in 2025, and available from [Progression Statistics - SQA](#)

This data is released in late January every calendar year and updated here in advance of Information Evenings.



RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

Worked Examples



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

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



Example – S4 Attainment into S5 choices

N5	English	B	S5 Choices
N5	Maths	B	Higher English
N5	Chemistry	A	Higher Maths
N5	PE	No award	Higher Physics
N5	Design and Manufacture	A	Higher Chemistry
N5	Physics	B	Higher Design and Manufacture
N5	Modern Studies	C	

You may love PE, but using the sample data set above, it would be foolish to progress in PE at the expense of subjects where your attainment in S4 was significantly better



S5 Broaden Portfolio of Attainment Pathway

Advice and Guidance



General Advice for those wishing to broaden their portfolio of qualifications in S5 and S6

- Some pupils may feel that sitting some Highers in S5 and others in S6 is the best pathway to follow to access university courses
- Where you have attained an 'A' or a 'B' in National 5 course, and in some courses a C, we strongly encourage you to progress to Higher in S5
- This may mean you will mix Highers and National 5s next session
- You must ensure that you understand the entry requirements for the course you are interested in



Example – S4 Attainment

N5 Maths D

N5 English B

N5 History A

N5 Art C

N4 Biology Pass

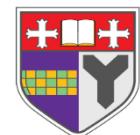
N5 Chemistry C

N4 Music Pass



Example – S4 Attainment into S5 choices

N5	Maths	D	S5 Choices	
N5	English	B		
N5	History	A	Higher	English
N5	Art	C	Higher	History
N4	Biology	Pass	Higher	Art
N5	Chemistry	C	N5	Maths (Repeat)
N4	Music	Pass	N5	Music or Biology



RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

S5 School and College

Advice and Guidance



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

General Advice for those wishing to prepare to move onto college, employment, training or an apprenticeship

- Where your grades in S4 support progression to Higher qualifications, we will always recommend that you take the Higher course
- Visit the Ayrshire College website and explore potential pathways that could lead to a place on a college course in S6 or a Foundation or Modern Apprenticeship
- Consider alternative internal courses such as Creative Thinking, Music Theatre, Sport and Recreation



Example – S4 Attainment

- N4 Maths Pass
- N4 English Pass
- N4 Biology Pass
- N4 PE Pass
- N4 Music Pass
- N5 Art B
- N4 Computing Pass



Example – S4 Attainment into S5 choices

• N4 Maths Pass	S5 Choices
• N4 English Pass	National 5 Maths
• N4 Biology Pass	National 5 English
• N4 PE Pass	Creative Thinking
• N4 Music Pass	Higher Art
• N5 Art B	College Provision related to Music, Computing or Biology or N5 Music, Computing or Biology in school
• N4 Computing Pass	



RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

Ayrshire College

School Partnership Programme



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

Ayrshire College

- Application Process
- Courses at various SCQF levels
- Will attend on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
- School has no say in acceptance or otherwise
- If choosing college, this is a sixth option in S5/6. This means that if you are not accepted, your alternative school choice is considered in the timetabling process.



College Provision – SCQF 4 and 5

- NPA Software Development
- Introduction to the Construction Industry
- Early Education and Childcare
- SVQ1 Performing Engineering Operations***
- Hair and Beauty



College Provision – SCQF 4 and 5

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- NPA Professional Cookery
- NPA Hospitality
- Automotive Skills
- NPA Sport Fitness
- ESOL – Details TBC



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

College Provision – SCQF 6 and 7

- NPA Software Development (SCQF6)
- HNC Applied Sciences (Infill, all day Tues/Thurs, SCQF7)
- NPA Psychology (SCQF6)
- HNC Sports Coaching and Development (Infill, all day Tues/Thurs, SCQF7)

RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

Foundation Apprenticeships



Foundation Apprenticeships

- SDS Initiative designed to blend learning with work based placement
- Can lead to a Modern Apprenticeship after school
- Modern Apprenticeships offer employment with accredited training
- Engineering Year 1 (Aeronautical) – Ayr Campus, Tues/Thurs 2pm to 5pm (SCQF6)
- Engineering Year 1 (Electrical) – Kilwinning Campus, Tues/Thurs 2pm to 5pm (SCQF6)



Foundation Apprenticeships - Considerations

- Must have a strong desire to pursue a career in Food and Drink Technology/Food Science or Social Services
- You are expected to be able to work at around Higher level (SCQF6)
- You must consider the impact of missing two full days of school on your attainment in school-based courses
- Travel costs will be covered by East Ayrshire
- Application process



Full Time College Courses

Leaving School

See Ayrshire College website for FT applications or make an appointment with Kate Faulds, Careers Advisor.



S5 pupils moving into S6

Expectations



Our Expectations

- Complete support for uniform policy, including blazer (applies to S5 as well)
- 100% attendance where possible
- Desire to demonstrate leadership by example via mentoring and leadership opportunities
- Commitment to the wider life of the school/ faith life of the school/ whole school events and fundraising
- Focussed, committed pupil leaders and role models



Caritas

- Delivered during core RE time
- Commitment to the faith life of the school and your local parish/church/faith based environment
- Document hours of service
- Faith in Action
- SCES Award & Awards Ceremony



YASS

- Open University Modules delivered Online
- Broadly at SCQF7 level (Advanced Higher, first year of University)
- Self directed online
- Does not contribute directly to UCAS but does count towards Open University study and wider attainment profile
- Variety of courses in a range of areas
- More information here – [YASS Blog](#)



S6 Pathways

I need to attain specific qualifications in S6 to be able to apply for university or college



Advice and Guidance

- Study at least four subjects
- Meet with Kate Faulds to figure out what you require
- Prioritise subjects where you attained well in S4 but did not take the subject on in S5
- Don't get distracted by S6 need to 'crash' new subjects – almost all underestimate challenge



S6 Pathways

I have already attained what I require for college



Advice

- If you are already able to secure a place at College next session, it may be best to consider taking up the offer of a place.
- While we would be delighted if you stayed on, we often find that those pupils already aware of the security of a college place can lose interest in school based learning.
- However, we recognise that the leadership opportunities on offer may be appealing. Commitment and dedication to further study and the role model aspect of S6 pupils are necessary to benefit from these opportunities.



RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

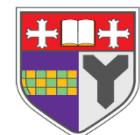
TRUTH

SERVICE

Check full time courses here: [Browse Courses](#) |
[Ayrshire College](#)



The image shows the homepage of the Ayrshire College website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'MY ACCOUNT', 'EMAILS', 'MOODLE', 'HAIR, BEAUTY AND NAIL SALONS', 'RESTAURANTS', and 'CONTACT US'. To the right of these are social media icons for YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and a magnifying glass for search. Below the navigation bar is a teal header with the 'Ayrshire College' logo on the left and links for 'Students', 'Schools', 'Business Solutions', 'About Us', 'News & Events', and a trash bin icon. To the right of this is a yellow search bar with the text 'Course Search' and a magnifying glass icon. The main content area features a large photograph of a female student with purple hair wearing safety goggles and a blue shirt, working on a large metal mechanical assembly. Overlaid on the image is the text 'FIND A COURSE' in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom of the page, there is a teal footer bar with the text 'FILTER BY:' followed by dropdown menus for 'Course Type', 'Attendance', and 'Campus', and buttons for 'Update' and 'Reset'. The footer also includes the college's crest and the motto 'FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS'.



S6 Pathways

**I have already attained what I require for
university**



Advice

- Many young people elect to begin University at the end of S6, having attained what they require in S5. New S6 performing better than expected in S5 can apply through Clearing in August 2026.
- Advanced Highers or additional Highers are a common reason for staying on
- Leadership experience and the opportunity to develop teamwork and other skills is another
- Dedication and commitment is non-negotiable, it is not a year off, a gap year or a reward year
- A small number of pupils achieving Highers request to take SCQF 5 courses not related to their career pathway as 'easy' subjects. This is not a position the school will support.



Advanced Highers

- In previous years, we have managed to deliver almost all Advanced Highers on site. This is always subject to uptake and staffing.
- Schools in Kilmarnock, Stewarton and Loudon often deliver at least one Advanced Higher that is accessible to pupils from the other schools in the above areas. This is always subject to availability, timetable viability and prior attainment.
- If there is another Advanced Higher subject you wish to study that is not on our options form, please discuss this with your Pastoral Care teacher during your interview. We will pass your name onto other local schools and the wider Ayrshire and Galloway online programme to try to ensure that you can access the course if running elsewhere.



Advanced Highers

Art and Design

Biology

Chemistry

English

French

History

Maths

Music

Physics

Spanish



Advanced Highers - Challenges

- Legal obligation to deliver S1-S3 (BGE) and to give S4 and S5 students the chance to sit N4, N5 and Higher
- Same constraints allowed you to sit your subjects in S1-S5
- Uncertainty around S1 numbers, staffing and S2-S5 options means that at the moment, we can only confirm that we will offer AH Modern Languages and AH Art
- Interim update in relation to AH offering elsewhere around May



UCAS

Covered in August

2026



Next Steps

- Time with family on My World of Work and reading the guidance issued this evening
- Discussion with family following Parents' Evening
- Preparation for your options interview over the next fortnight
- Lunchtime drop ins with MyWoW ambassadors
- Group Sessions with SDS



Options Form and Interview

- Our current column structure has been in place for a number of years
- We use 'free choice' which means that you do not choose from columns in the first instance
- Where this presents issues for some pupils, we may revert to a column structure for those pupils
- Need will be prioritised over want due to timetabling constraints
- Interviews to take place from tomorrow 09/01/2026



S4/5 into S5/6 Personalisation and Choice Form – To be completed online via Microsoft Forms at Interview

Pupil Name:

Career Aspiration:



National 5 Courses	Higher Courses	Other SCQF Courses	Advanced Higher Courses (TBC in May 2026)
Application of Maths	Administration and IT	NPA Criminology (SCQF5)	Art and Design
Art and Design	Application of Maths	Personal Finance (SCQF5)	Biology
Biology	Art and Design	Creative Thinking (SCQF5&6)	Chemistry
Business Management	Biology	P.E: Leadership through Sport (SCQF5&6) <i>(Sport and Recreation, Leadership Award, Wellbeing)</i>	English
Chemistry	Business Management	Health Sector (SCQF5)	French
Computing Science	Chemistry	NPA Musical Theatre	History
Drama	Computing Science	NPA Dance	Maths
English	Drama		Music
French	English or ESOL		Physics
Geography	French		Spanish
German	Geography		
History	German	College Course or Foundation Apprenticeship (Enter course name):	
Modern Studies	History		
Music	Maths		
PE: Games Performance Pathway	Modern Studies		
Physics	Music	Advice Note S4 into S5 – 5 subjects or 5 subjects plus College S5 into S6 – 4/5 subjects or 4/5 subjects plus College, or 3 Advanced Highers	
Spanish	PE: Movement Performance Pathway		
	PE: Games Performance Pathway		
	Physics		
	Politics (S6 Only)		
	Psychology (S6 Only)		
	RMPS		
	Spanish		

Pupil signature:

Parent/Carer signature:

Pastoral Care signature:

RESPECT

EQUALITY

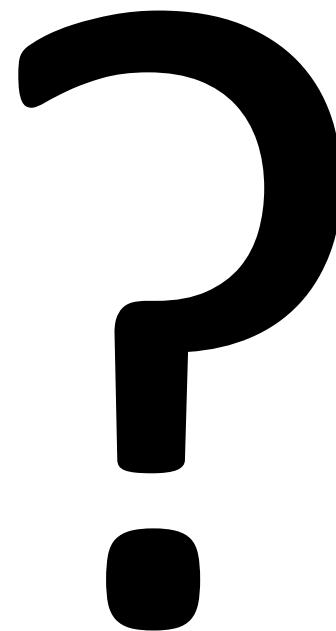
AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

Questions



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS