

S3 N5 and N4 Presentation

- Williamwood High School



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The New Qualifications

- Scotland's new national qualifications have been developed as part of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) - the 3-18 curriculum in schools, preparing young people for the twenty-first century.
- As part of Curriculum for Excellence, aspects of Scotland's education system, including **qualifications**, **assessment** and learning and teaching approaches have been reviewed.

National 4 and National 5

What are these qualifications?

- A combination of the best elements of Standard Grade and Intermediate courses
- Progression from CfE courses in S1/2 and link to new Highers
- Planned to have a fuller range of learning experiences and assessment activities.
- Expected to prepare young people for the twenty-first century. Developing skills, learning subject content, ability to formulate arguments, contextualise learning, apply learning, research skills, presentation skills etc

Pathways

S3/S4	S5	S6
National 5	Higher	Adv. Higher
National 4	National 5	Higher
National 3	National 4	National 5

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all the Units as well as the Course assessment.

Key information

- National 5, National 4 and National 3
- 2 or 3 units of work (40 or 60 hours per unit)
- Assessment at end of each unit
- One final exam in May/June of S4 for National 5 only
- Certificate awarded at A, B, C, D for National 5 only
- Each course has a value-added component.

Example: **N5** Modern Studies

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Democracy Scotland & UK, Social Issues, International Issues)
- Examination now 1.5 hours (Intermediate was 2 hours).
- Exam 60 marks (Intermediate was 80 marks)
- **Pupils** Investigate an issue and do a one hour write-up report under exam conditions. Sent to SQA for external marking.
- Investigation worth 20 marks

Example: N4 Modern Studies

- Study three units and **pass** unit assessments (Democracy Scotland & UK, Social Issues, International Issues)
- *Value Added* Investigation on a Modern Studies topic, this assignment is internally assessed as pass or fail (choose topic, collect evidence, evaluate sources, describe issue, detect bias, present findings).
- One reassessment, must meet standards without teacher rewriting for pupils.

Example: N5 Biology

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Life on Earth, Multi-cellular organisms, cell biology)
- Final examination question paper is 80 marks in a 2 hour exam
- Do a research investigation into a relevant topic in biology. Do a classroom write-up in 1 hour (exam conditions) using investigation findings. This is worth 20 marks and marked externally by SQA

Example: **N5** Computing Science

- Study two units and pass unit assessments (Software Design and Development & Information System Design and Development)
- Final examination question paper is for 90 marks in 1.5 hours
- Assignment 60 marks-process of investigation, done over a number of weeks, internally assessed according to strict criteria.
- **Administration and IT** course also available- no examination

Example: N5 English

- Component 1- question paper: reading 70 marks
- Component 2- portfolio: writing 30 marks
English Analysis and Evaluation
- New Scottish text compulsory element

Set Scottish Texts for N5

Drama:

- *Bold Girls* by Rona Munro
- *Sailmaker* by Alan Spence
- *Tally's Blood* by Ann Marie di Mambro

Prose:

- *Short stories (a selection of)* by Iain Crichton Smith
- *Hieroglyphics and Other Stories* by Anne Donovan
- *The Testament of Gideon Mack* by James Robertson
- *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Poetry:

- *Carol Ann Duffy, Edwin Morgan, Norman MacCaig, Jackie Kay*

English Portfolio

- The portfolio will comprise two written texts that address creative and discursive writing.
- Fifteen marks will be awarded for each writing piece chosen for the portfolio.
- Learners will demonstrate their ability to write in more than one form.

How are these similar to the current Intermediate qualifications?

- Unit based with assessments for each
- Content is provided in written curriculum
- Exams in N5 same as Int 2 (or Credit)
- Benchmarking of standards against Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 has occurred.
- Unit assessments are secure and confidential, carried out mostly closed-book on a pass/fail basis.

How are these different to the current Intermediate qualifications?

- Extra types of assessment to allow greater creativity and application- projects/ investigations/ performances making up proportion of mark (not all the final exam)
- National 4- unit plus a value-added project
- National 4- no EXTERNAL exam
- National 4- no grades.
- Teachers construct the assessment, SQA moderate these standards (no appeals)

How we will continue to support performance?

- Detailed timelines for courses
- Planners presentation and checks
- Supported study
- Easter School
- Feedback to pupils, communication with parents
- Tracking reports
- Parental revision support/ pupil study skills
- Duke of Edinburgh Award (organisational skills)

How parents can support their children?

- Organisation and deadlines
- Research capabilities
- Submitted work
- Deadlines for more subjects
- Planners
- Encourage children to showcase ability and interest in their projects

Further Information

- Options booklets will be online
- SQA website for N4 and N5 courses
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/37917.2088.html>





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The new qualifications

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As part of Curriculum for Excellence, aspects of Scotland's education system, including qualifications, assessment and learning and teaching approaches are being reviewed.

At SQA we are developing the new qualifications young people will study. Two other partner organisations are involved in developing and delivering Curriculum for Excellence: [The Scottish Government](#) and [Education Scotland](#).

Other partners such as teaching unions and associations are also involved in overseeing and monitoring progress via the CfE Management Board.

Video: SQA's role in Curriculum for Excellence



- Contact Information**
- CfE Liaison Team

- Related Information**
- Information for:
- Teachers and practitioners
 - Parents and carers
 - Young people
 - Employers

- Helpful Links**
- What is CfE?
 - National Assessment Resource (NAR)
 - Scottish Government: CfE

Get involved

Have Your Say

Further information/support

- PSHE – 21 January 2013
- S2 Options Evening – 5 February 2013
- Options week – week beginning 18 Feb 2013
- S3 Options begin – 25 February 2013