



MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

S4 CURRICULUM EVENING 2022

Welcome from HT
Mr. S. Clark

Plan for Evening



National Courses – the pupil experience/ SQA position

Study Skills

S4 Key Dates

Presentation on school website after event

National 4 Courses

Assess the
application of
learning across the
course



- Pass or fail
- Ensure required skills, knowledge and understanding have been achieved
- Unit Assessments (UASPs) are set by the SQA
- Carried out by class teacher and internally verified by department/faculty.
- All internal verification could be subject to external moderation by the SQA.

National 5 Courses

S4 formal Prelim Exams will take place during the period of W/C 5th December to W/C 19th December 2022.

National 5 Courses

**SQA exams will take
place from 24th April
to 31st May 2023.**

National 5 Courses

(For most National 5 courses, these are the same modifications that were put in place for 2021-22.)

National Qualifications

Information on our National 1 to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses as well as Skills for Work and Baccalaureate qualifications.



NQ subject pages

Find course content, assessment and coursework information for your subject.



2022-23 modifications

A summary of modifications for 2022-23 in a table - filter by course/level.

Assessment

DEPARTMENT EXAMPLES

English in S4

What are the pupils asked to do?

Paper One RUAЕ

One hour

30 marks

Pupils read one passage of non fiction writing, most often journalism from a broadsheet newspaper.

They are asked approx. 14-16 marks worth of questions testing their understanding of **WHAT** the writer is arguing.

The rest are Analysis questions about **how** the writer uses techniques to make the argument.

Paper Two - Critical Reading

One hour and 30 minutes

40 marks

There are two elements for this part of the exam. Each element must be from a different genre of writing.

Part One: Set Text 20 marks

Pupils study a play, a novel, short story or a group of 6 poems. They are asked 12 marks worth of questions from an extract in the exam paper. They then write an 8 mark answer, which requires them to show a knowledge of the whole text.

Texts being studied this year: Poetry MacCaig; Tally's Blood -play; Sailmaker - play

Paper Two Critical Essay

Paper Two - Critical Reading

One hour and 30 minutes

40 marks

There are two elements for this part of the exam. Each element must be from a different genre of writing.

Part Two Critical Essay

If a class has studied poetry for Set Text, then they might study a novel/ short story, a play or a film for their critical essay.

In the exam, pupils have approximately 45 minutes to write an essay responding to a question set in the exam.

Some texts being studied this year: Macbeth; Lord of the Flies; Of Mice and men; a selection of poetry.

The Folio

Worth 30 marks

To be completed under SQA “controlled conditions”.

Pupils will be given hand in dates for:

- A proposed topic
- A detailed plan
- A first draft
- A final essay

Teachers may give pupils advice at each stage of this process.

Notes up to date? Feeling Smug? Excellent! So now...

Let's think for a minute about what studying ISN'T.

IT ISN'T:

Reading through your lovely, complete notes a few times.

Copying out your lovely, complete notes in smaller handwriting or in pretty colours.

Going online, finding a past paper, having a look, copying out the answer scheme and hoping some of it will go in. It might, but this really isn't the best way!

Staring at your notes, wondering what's in the fridge and wondering how long it is before your parents will give you your phone back.

Ok, if that's
what
studying
ISN'T, then
what is it?

Gathering and organising your work
together.

Understanding your notes

Distilling your notes

Learning your notes

Practise applying your notes to exam
questions.



What can I do to help -RUAE?

- Regularly reading broadsheet newspaper articles – the comment section.
- Pupils would benefit from reading articles, discussing them, and answering some generic questions on them.
- 20 minutes/ half an hour at a time.
- If they haven't got any English homework (they will!), this is a big help.

Study Cards for RUAE

Question Type	Done?
In your own words...	
Summarising	
Linking Questions	
Contrast	
Word Choice	
Imagery (simile, metaphor, personification)	
Tone	
Sentence structure	
Effective opening/ ending	

For each question type, there is a particular strategy for answering.

Pupils will be asked to make up a study card for each question, with the strategy on one side and a worked example on the other.

They should have these in front of them as they practise with past papers.

Ask them if they have their **WITS** about them!

What can I do to help –Critical reading?

Study Cards Set Text “The Conegatherers”

The view of the estate owners' house, the Runcie Campbell family.

P1 “the chimneys of the mansion behind its private fence of giant silver furs.”

Metaphor

The row of trees is compared to a fence, a barrier perhaps to keep people out or separate. The trees represent the divide between the wealthy aristocrats who live in the beautiful mansions and the workers, Neil and Calum, who are on the other side of the trees and are unwelcome in the world of the wealthy. This establishes the theme of social divisions as we see that Neil's resentment grows throughout the novel.

Once you have made your Study Cards, what do you do with them?

- Learn them!
- Try to memorise the quotations.
- Try to memorise the analysis: not word for word but the main points.
- Ask a friendly parent, dog, gerbil, even a brother or sister to test you on both sides of the card. At a push, talk to the plants. Or yourself.
- Test yourself. Can you make a new set of cards? This time, don't look at your notes and try to write them from memory. You can try to condense your ideas and have key words as prompts.

Your new cards might look like this...

Beginning of novel; RC's House

P1 “the chimneys of the mansion behind its private fence of giant silver furs.”

- Metaphor
- trees = divide rich and poor.
- Rich – RCs
- Poor - Neil and Calum
- Establishes theme of social divisions
- Neil's resentment grows thru' novel.

And Finally... Past Papers!

- Time yourself : 45 minutes.
- Time yourself with critical essay: 1 hour 30 minutes.
- Don't bother copying the marking scheme. Fools no one!
- Use the marking scheme once you have finished.
- Ask your teacher about the bits you don't understand. Why did I lose marks? How should I do next time?

the MORE
YOU PRACTICE
THE BETTER
YOU GET

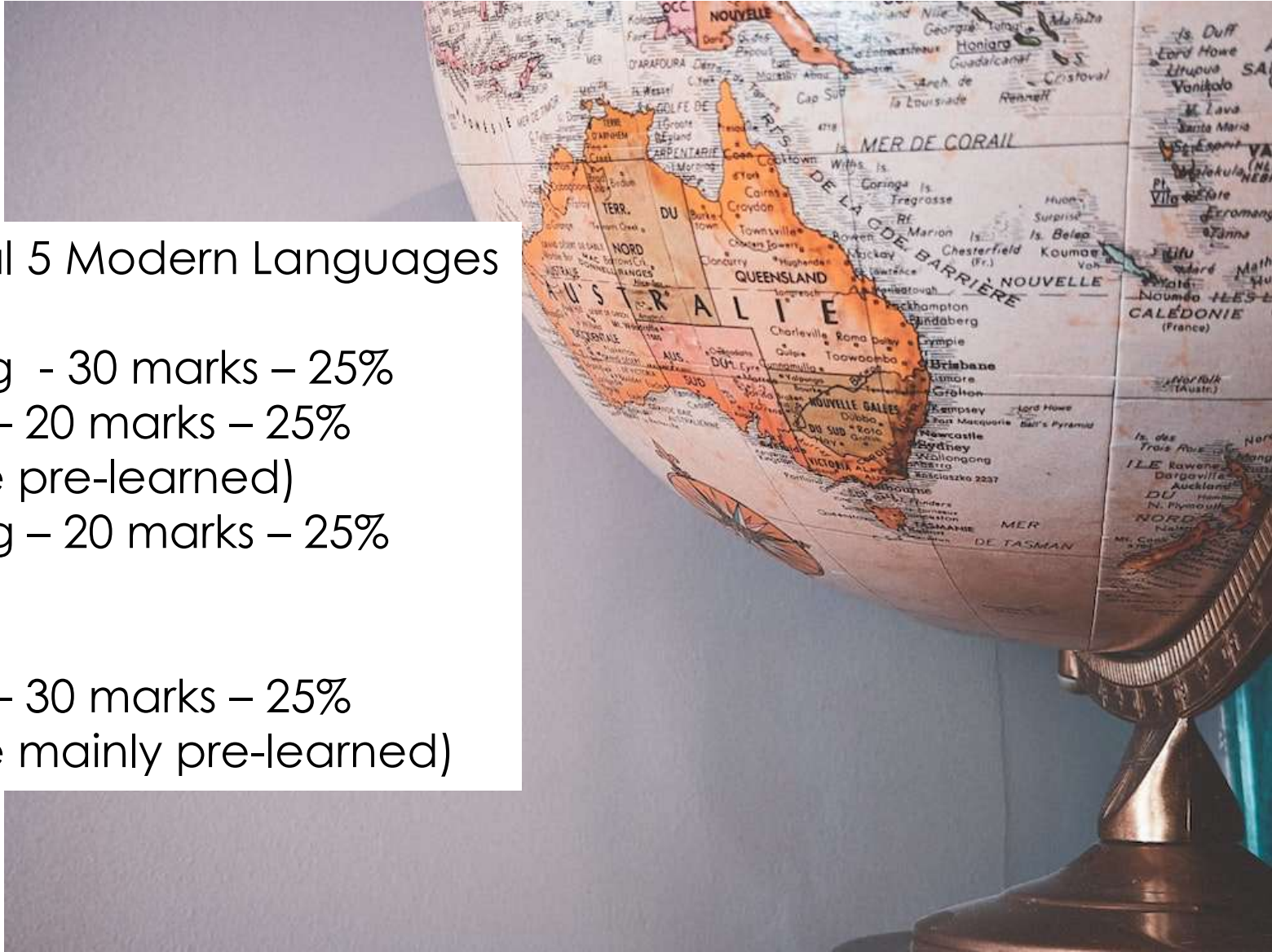
Maths in S_4

Mathematics



- S4 Course
National 5 National 4 National 3 (+ N4 Numeracy for some)
- National 3 – Internally Assessed. No changes.
- National 4 – Internally Assessed. One change: AV (added value unit) not required.
- National 5 – Externally Assessed. One Exam, Two papers (Calculator and Non-calculator)
Three topics will not be assessed in National 5 Maths –
Vectors, Similarity, 3-D Coordinates.

French in S4



National 5 Modern Languages

Reading - 30 marks – 25%

Writing – 20 marks – 25%

(can be pre-learned)

Listening – 20 marks – 25%

Talking – 30 marks – 25%

(can be mainly pre-learned)

Presentation Level?

In 2022 92% of our S4 presentations were at N5 and of those presentations over 90% were successful.

Final decisions about presentation levels will usually take place after the prelims

**Ambitious
but
realistic**

N4 may be a better route for some young people allowing them to have success in S4 and then build on that during S5 & S6 when a small number of N5 courses will be available in school

Pupils will also have opportunities in S5/6 to choose vocational courses that are organised in partnership with local colleges.

Target Bands on S4 Tracking Reports – Issued 12th October

Target Bands are being generated for each S4 pupil in each of their National courses based on the pupil's prior attainment, departmental feedback and historical data.

The S4 Tracking Report also features information on Working Bands which is the level at which a pupil is currently working on the course.

This information will generate very valuable dialogue between pupils, parents and teachers around how pupils can move their performance from the Working Band towards the Target Band or indeed sustain their current level of performance

Target Bands are neither Estimate nor Predicted Grades for pupils. Rather they are Targets based on prior attainment which pupils, with maximum motivation and commitment can realistically aspire to achieve in their National SQA Examinations.

Aspirational targets are intended to be both ambitious and realistic for the pupil.

Gradient of Learning

Subject	Nat 5 Result	Higher Result				
English		A	B	C	D	Fail
	A1	81%	17%	2%	0%	0%
	A2	42%	36%	16%	3%	3%
	B3	10%	30%	36%	13%	11%
	B4	3%	21%	44%	18%	14%
	C5	0%	7%	26%	21%	46%
	C6	3%	0%	21%	29%	47%

Gradient of Learning

Subject	N5 Result	Higher Result				
Maths		A	B	C	D	Fail
	A1	86%	11%	3%	0%	0%
	A2	35%	33%	22%	4%	6%
	B3	11%	30%	30%	13%	16%
	B4	3%	22%	34%	16%	25%
	C5	0%	14%	33%	13%	40%
	C6	0%	0%	0%	14%	86%

Supporting S4 Learners

- S4 Tracking Report issued Thursday 12th October
- S4 Parents Evening Thursday 3rd November
- Supported Study Programme
- Easter School Programme
- S4 Reporting to Parents issued Thursday 19th January
- Tracking and Monitoring (Following Prelims)
- Mentoring Support
- Scholar
- Microsoft Teams/ Google Classroom
- PSE Study Skills Programme
- S4 Assemblies

Home Learning + Study Advice

WEBSITES & RESOURCES



Planning for study

Dedicated study area

Work to a plan

Organise notes and resources

Mobile phones

Diet

Exercise

Sleep patterns



Planning for study (2)

Mind maps

Flash Cards

Recording Notes

Post-its

Ever-decreasing notes

Study buddies



You Tube

Bitesize

Home

National 5

National 5 is a qualification taken by students in Scotland, generally during their secondary senior phase of education.



Art and Design



Biology



Business management



Chemistry



Computing Science



Dance



Design and manufacture



Drama



Engineering science



English



Fashion and textile technology



French



Gaelic (Learners)



Geography



German



Graphic communication



Health and food technology



History



Hospitality



Application of Maths



Maths



Modern Languages



Modern Studies



Music



Music Technology



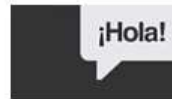
Physical Education



Physics



Religious, moral and philosophical studies



Spanish



Technologies



SCHOLAR

Five *FABULOUS* reasons to use SCHOLAR

- 1 Access to online tutors
- 2 Instant feedback on exam tests and quizzes
- 3 Study and revise anytime...anywhere
- 4 Monitor progress using the Reporting System
- 5 Rich, visual and interactive content for over 30 courses



COURSES AVAILABLE

Science and Mathematics			
	N5	H	AH
Biology	✓	✓	✓
Chemistry	✓	✓	✓
Computing Science	✓	✓	✓
Human Biology	**	✓	**
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
Physics	✓	✓	✓

COURSES AVAILABLE

Languages			
	N5	H	AH
English	✓	✓	✓
ESOL	✓	✓	**
French	*	✓	✓
Gaelic	*	✓	
German	*	✓	✓
Mandarin	✓		
Spanish	*	✓	✓

COURSES AVAILABLE

Humanities and Social Sciences			
	N5	H	AH
Accounting		✓	✓
Art and Design		✓	
Business Management	✓	✓	✓
Economics		✓	✓
English	✓	✓	✓
Psychology		✓	**
Geography	✓		
Music	✓		

ONLINE PLATFORMS

- Every class has their own Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams page
- Resources and learning materials for each subject will be shared via these platforms
- Homework will also be issued via these platforms



Recording Homework

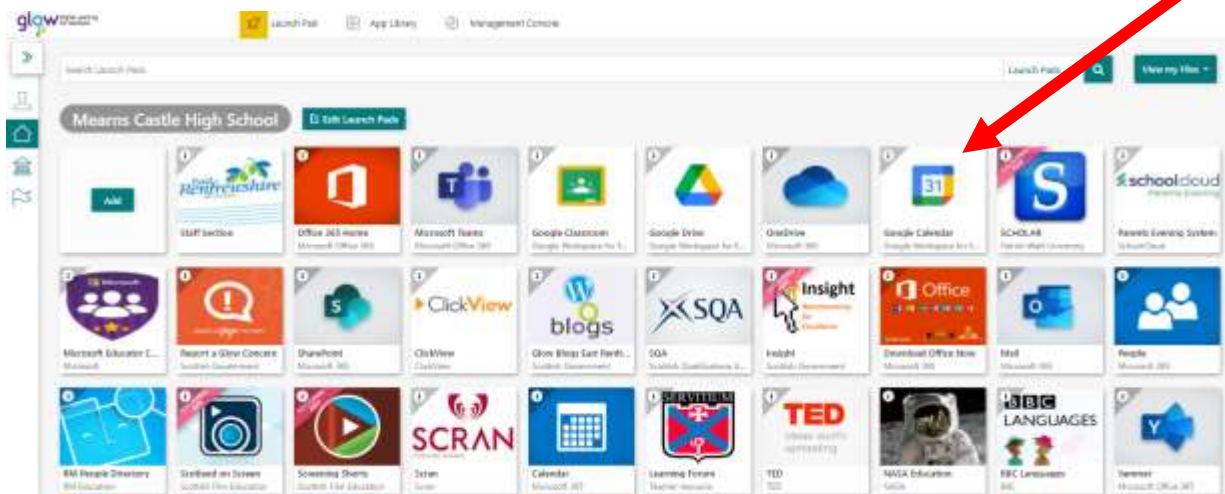
Last year we sought views through the Pupil Council and whole year group surveys to find out how pupils recorded/logged any homework that was due. From this consultation and from speaking to parents and staff and it was evident that logbooks were not widely used.

We have decided to use an alternative approach which will allow pupils and parents to see homework clearer and also reduces the environmental footprint to produce the logbooks.

Homework

All staff will now issue homework as an “assignment” on Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams.

No matter the platform, this can all be viewed on each pupil’s Google Calendar in GLOW



Homework

Homework will appear in the calendar on the date it is due, as per example below

The screenshot shows a Google Calendar interface for May 2022. The calendar grid displays various events, including homework assignments and holidays. The assignments are color-coded: orange for 'Exercise', black for 'Test', and blue for 'YPI Presu'. Holidays are marked with green boxes. The interface includes a 'Create' button, a 'Meet with...' section, and 'Time Insights'.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 May	2 Early May Bank Holiday	3	4	5	6 Assignment: Test Assi ● 11:29am Assignme	7
8	9 Assignment: Exercise	10 Assignment: Test 2	11 ● 11:30am ICT HOME	12 ● 11:29pm TEST 1	13 ● 11:29am Assignme 2 more	14
15	16 Assignment: Exercise ● 11:30am DIG TECH	17 Assignment: YPI Presu	18	19	20 ● 11:29am Assignme	21
22	23 Assignment: Exercise ● 11:29pm S2 MCHS	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Assignment: Exercise	31 ● 11:29pm: S2 Pop M	1 Jun	2 Spring Bank Holiday	3 Queen's Platinum Jubl ● 11:58pm Assignme	4

Homework

Homework can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink which will open the Classroom or Teams page for the subject and show a description of the homework task.

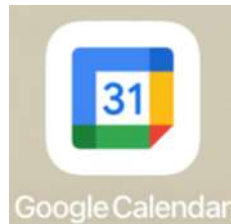
The screenshot displays a Google Calendar interface for May 2022. The calendar grid shows several days with orange pop-up notifications for "Assignment: Exercise" tasks. A detailed pop-up window is open over the assignment on Monday, 9 May. The pop-up window contains the following information:

- Assignment: Exercise 33**
- Monday, 9 May
- <https://classroom.google.com/c/MzYwOTI5MDQ4MDA5/a/NTA1NTQzNTE5MDM0/details>
- Mrs Stewart S2 French 2021/22 S2
- Created by: L. Stewart
- Busy

The background calendar shows other events such as "Early May Bank Holiday" on May 2nd, "Spring Bank Holiday" on May 31st, and "Queen's Platinum Jubilee" on May 3rd. The interface includes a "Create" button, a "Meet with..." search bar, and "Time Insights" for the month.

Google Calendar App

Parents can access their child's Google Calendar by **seeking permission from your child** to log in to the Google Calendar app on the parents phone.



Ensure that all calendars are visible in the app by selecting them from the menu at the left hand side of the screen including the Teams Calendar.

It must be the child's school Google account – not a personal e-mail account. The last part of the login for Google is the key bit:

@er.glow.scot

Sign in

with your Google Account. You'll also sign in to Google services in your apps & Safari.

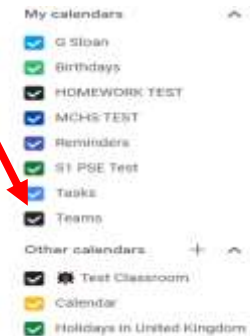
Email or phone

glowemailaddress@er.glow.scot

Forgot email?

Create account

Next



We are in the process of finalising the set up for S1's and then the whole school will be ready to launch our online homework recording. At this point we will send parents a step by step guide.



**Keeping wellbeing
at the Heart of Mearns Castle**







Meet the Wellbeing Team



Ms Cartledge

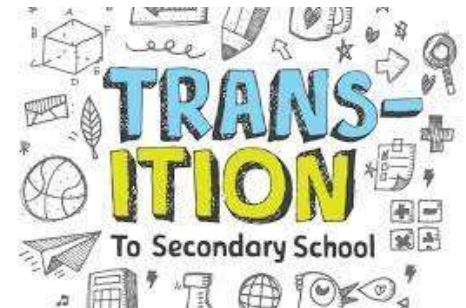


Heather



Connor

UNIVERSAL SUPPORT



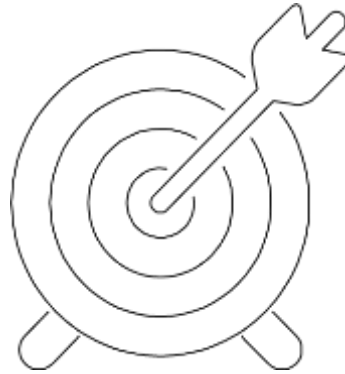



The Hub



Targeted Support

Group
Sessions



1 to 1
Sessions

Relationship Building

Outdoor
Activities

Creative
Activities

Flexible
Drop In

Relaxation
Techniques

Key dates for S4

- S4 Curriculum Evening 6th September
- S4 Tracking Report 12th October
- S4 Parents Evening 3rd November
- S4 Full Report issued 19th January
- S4/5 Options Evening 23rd January

Prelims and SQA Exams

Prelims -W/C 5th December to W/C 19th December 2022: This will replicate the experience pupils can expect when they come to the formal SQA exams.

The SQA exams begin **24th April 2023.**

Pupils who have a number of N4 courses where there is no final exam will have a different experience at this time – this might include college activities, work experience or other school-based activities.

Online Evaluation

If you have any questions relating to the presentation please contact the pupil support teacher for your child using the school email address.
