



**S3 EXAMINATIONS**  
A Parents' Guide

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BEST**

@MearnsCastleHS



**MEARNS VALUES...**

**M**utual Respect



**E**quality



**A**mbition



**R**esilience



**N**urture



**S**ustainability



## INTRODUCTION

Dear parent/carer,

The S3 assessments will commence on Monday 18th March and will continue until Friday 19th April. The actual timetable of assessments will be issued to students in due course. These assessments are primarily for teachers to assess each child's progress but also provide a valuable opportunity for students to get a clearer understanding of their strengths and area for developments in each of their National 5 subjects.

Class teachers will provide subject specific information regarding the assessments in their subject areas. This document includes a helpful guide for each subject at National 5 level. Subjects that do not have a final examination are unlikely to be included in the S3 assessment schedule.

I am delighted that we have this opportunity to support students with their learning and I wish them every success.

Kind Regards

Michael McGarry  
S3 DHT Mearns Castle High School

# ADMINISTRATION & IT

## Topics covered in S3 exam

### Spreadsheet

- Formula – add, subtract, multiply, divide, sum, max, min, average
- Formatting – sort, inserting and deleting rows/columns, borders and shading
- Charts

### Database

- Tables
- Forms
- Queries
- Reports

### E-diary

### Word

- Itinerary

### Power Point

- Apply design template
- Select/Insert Graphics and Logo
- Retrieve and insert data from WP or SS document
- Edit bullet point style
- Print – whole slide/handout (6 slides to a page)

## Ways to study

Practice task shared on MS Teams

## Study resources

- Lesson materials and practice tasks on MS Teams
- YouTube tutorial videos for Microsoft applications
- Lunchtime drop-in sessions every Monday in A15

## Format of the exam

The S3 exam will be completed over 2 periods and be in a project format where all tasks relate to the same theme/scenario.



# ART & DESIGN



## Topics covered in S3 exam

- Art modern
- Art Deco
- Cassandre
- Mucha

## Ways to study

Study cards, Google Classroom resources, designer prompts and responses, past paper questions.

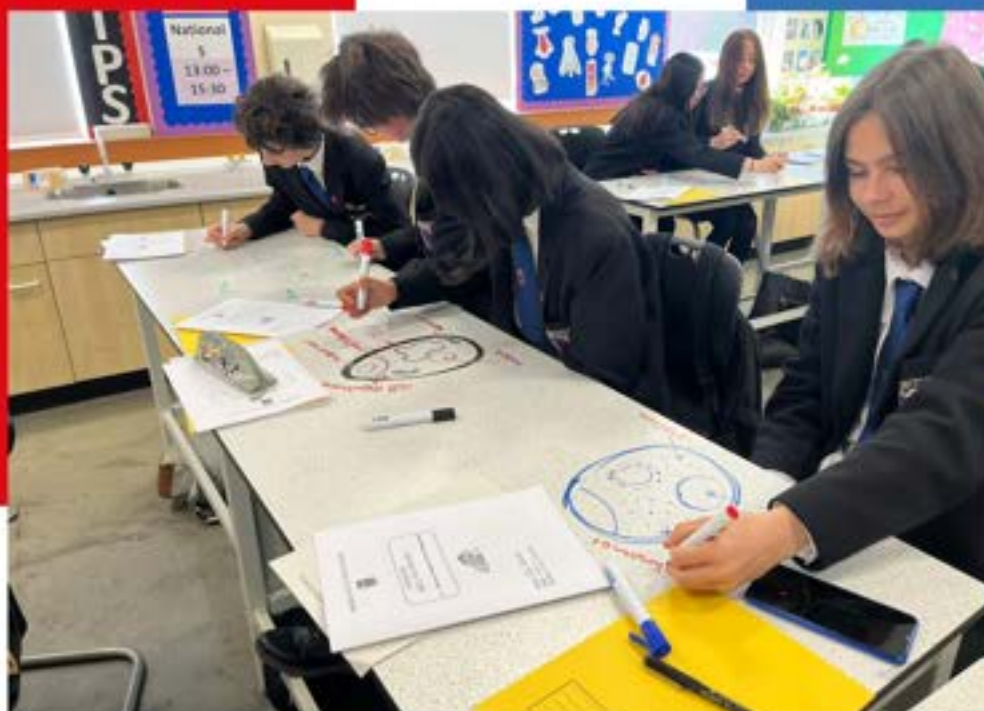
## Study resources

Google Classroom, SQA website

## Format of the exam

2 x 45 min paper, 10 mark question on Cassandre & Mucha, 5 mark question on Cassandre, Social & Culture





# **BIOLOGY**

## **Topics covered in S3 exam**

Unit 1

1.1a Cell structure

1.1b Transport across cell membranes

1.2 Respiration

1.3 Protein synthesis and genetic engineering

1.4 Enzymes

## **Ways to study**

Revision notes, mind maps, flash cards then past paper questions. Time will also be given in class to prepare.

## **Study resources**

Pupils have booklets for each topic and there are lots of revision materials on our Biology TEAMS page the code is **c8a1nn3**. There is also BBC Bitesize and scholar.

## **Format of the exam**

The exam will be one period long and be made up of multiple choice questions and short answer questions.





# **BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

## **Topics covered in S3 exam**

- Understanding Business
- Management of Marketing
- Management of Operations

## **Ways to study**

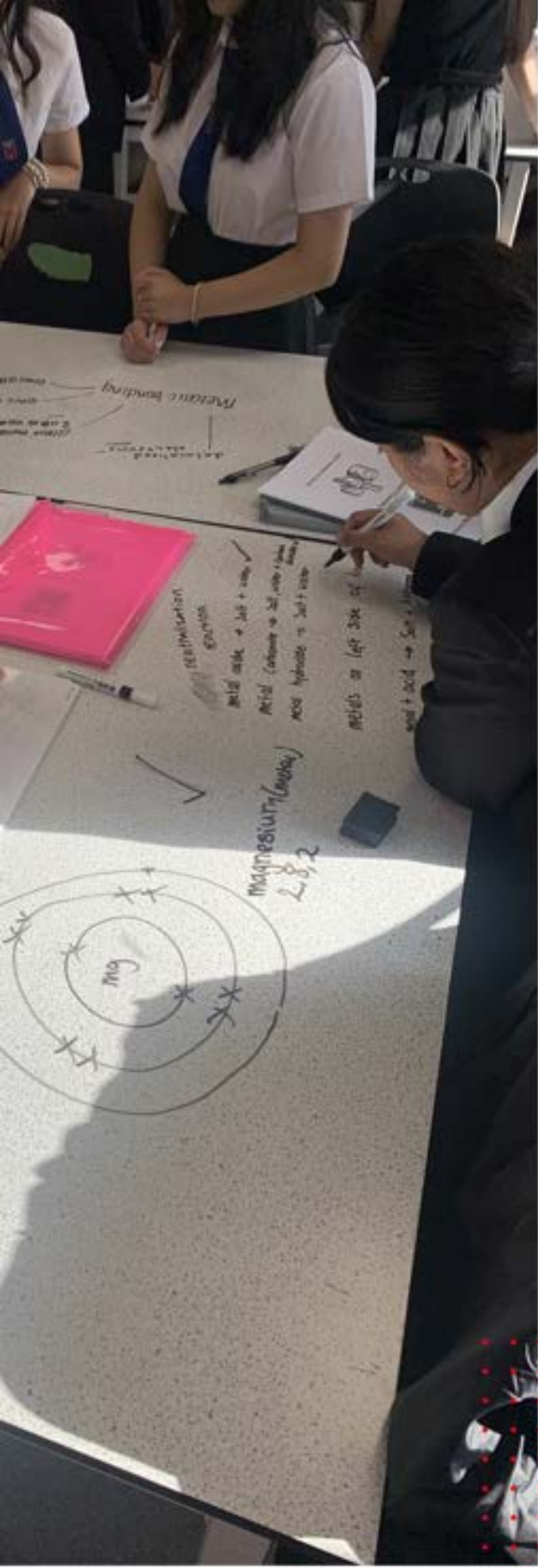
- Flash cards of describing the business terms and advantages and disadvantages (where relevant)
- Mind Maps – adding as much detail for each topic as possible
- Topic Study Guides – issued on MS Teams
- Past Paper Questions

## **Study resources**

- Notes Booklets for each of the 3 topics
- Class notes and lesson powerpoints can be found on class MS Teams
- Topic Study Guides can be found on class MS Teams
- BBC Bitesize website
- Scholar website can be accessed via Scholar

## **Format of the exam**

- The S3 exam will be split into 2 papers and completed over 2 periods.
- One paper will be 3 questions that total 10 marks each on each of the 3 topics.
- One paper will be 2 case studies with related questions from each of the 3 topics totalling 25 marks.
- There will be a range of command words in each paper including; Identify, Outline, Describe, Explain, Justify and Compare.



# CHEMISTRY

## Topics covered in S3 exam

All of Unit 1:

Rates  
Atoms  
Bonding  
Formula and Reaction Quantities  
Acids and Bases

## Ways to study

flash cards, past papers and lunch time support can be accessed on Monday

## Study resources

All pupils in Chemistry are a member of the year group team with a host of revision resources including summary notes, practice questions and links to video lessons. This is on top of their individual class teams.

All parents received information on study approaches and recommended websites at the start of term, as part of a welcome letter sent to all N5 Chemistry candidates

## Format of the exam

2 papers, completed over 2 separate periods in class



# COMPUTING SCIENCE



## Topics covered in S3 exam

### Computer Systems

- Data representation
- Computer structure

### Web Design & Development

- Analysis
- Design
- Implementation – html, CSS
- Testing & Evaluation

Database, Design & Development

## Ways to study

Practice past paper questions, Flash cards of key terms, Mind maps including as much detail as possible for each topic

## Study resources

- Practice tasks and lesson materials shared on MS Teams
- SQA course specification details additional tasks
- Past Paper Questions from SQA website
- Lunchtime drop-in sessions every day
- BBC Bitesize website
- Scholar website can be accessed via Glow

## Format of the exam

The S3 exam is split into 2 papers and will be completed over 2 periods.





# DRAMA

## Topics covered in S3 exam

- **Characterisation** – practical drama techniques you used to create characters, including rehearsal techniques.
- **Performance or Design Concepts** – concepts you created to enhance your Drama. This may be in relation to target audience, mood and atmosphere, setting, genre, theme etc. Appropriate terminology should be used for the production skill being discussed.
- **Style/Genre/Form** – scripted play/musical/improvised play, naturalistic/non naturalistic/comedy, romance/horror/thriller/action
- **Setting** – where and when your drama is set.
- **Staging/Venue** – what staging, venue and set design you would use in order to make this setting clear.
- **Themes/issues and message** – what are the themes/issues of your drama? You may also be asked to identify and justify dramatic message.
- **Mood and Atmosphere** – you must be able to explain the mood and atmosphere of your drama.
- **Production Skills** – you must be able to use production specific terminology to explain how you would enhance a performance.
- **Target Audience** – you must be able to identify, justify and discuss the target audience's reaction to your drama.

## Ways to study

- Revise from the Drama Lexicon
- Specimen Question Papers or past paper questions, using the marking instructions
- Create Flashcards
- Attend lunchtime drop in sessions



## Study resources

- All class notes and revision support materials are uploaded on the class TEAMS page.
- SQA National 5 Drama page.
- SQA Past papers
- National 5 Drama understanding standards page ([www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk))
- BBC Bytesize

## Format of the exam

Complete a PERFORMANCE + QUESTION PAPER

### Component 1 – Practical Exam (5 minutes per performer)

The practical exam has two sections.

Section 1- a performance in the chosen role of acting or design.

Section 2 - complete a Preparation for Performance essay (400 words).

### Component 2 – Question Paper (50 minutes- Complete in one class period)

Section 1 – Discuss the area you were assessed on in the final exam whether it was acting or design and evaluate the final exam.

Section 2 – In this section, you must create a play from a selection of given stimuli. Once you have come up with a play you must answer questions on the structure and content of the play as well as how you might stage it.



# ENGLISH



## Topics covered in S3 exam

- All RUAЕ techniques studied so far, including own words, word choice, imagery, tone and sentences structure.
- Either a poem, a play, a novel or a film. Your class teacher will give you advice about the text to choose.

## Ways to study

Use flash cards for RUAЕ techniques. Write the formula on one side and a worked example on the other side.

You could do the same for quotations or film techniques. Look through past papers for the type of essay question you might be asked.

## Study resources

- Find resources on your class Microsoft Teams page.
- Visit the English SQA Study Hub on Teams for worked examples of different RUAЕ question types. Code **4h01da5** (zero)

## Format of the exam

The exam will take place over two, separate periods.

- Paper One will last 1 period and will be an RUAЕ paper.
- Paper Two will last 1 period and you will write 1 critical essay.

# GEOGRAPHY

## Topics covered in S3 exam

A checklist is posted on Google Classroom outlining what pupils need to know for each topic in the S3 exam:

Hazards  
Urban  
Population  
Weather

## Ways to study

Revision notes, mind maps, flash cards and past paper questions. Use of end of topic revision summary sheets. Wednesday lunchtime drop in E5

## Study resources

A 'Revision Notes' booklet of the whole course and a 'Question/Model Answer' booklet can be found on the class' Google Classroom under REVISION RESOURCES.

SQA Past Papers are also posted on the classroom and the BBC Bitesize website is a useful resource.

## Format of the exam

The S3 exam will be split over two periods.

Paper 1: Urban (includes Mapwork Questions) and Population

Paper 2: Hazards (Volcanoes, Earthquakes, Tropical Storms) and Weather



# GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

## Topics covered in S3 exam

- Computer-aided design (CAD) techniques
- Manual and electronic methods of graphic communication
- View recognition – identifying views of 2D & 3D objects
- British Standards (BSI) - drawing standards, protocols and conventions
- Desktop Publishing (DTP) - use of colours, layout and presentation techniques, desktop publishing terminology



## Ways to study

Study cards, pupil notes, Google Classroom  
PowerPoints, past papers, lunchtime drop-ins

## Study resources

- Google Classroom
- SQA website
- pupil notes

## Format of the exam

2 papers, completed over 2 separate periods in class.





# HEALTH AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY

## Topics covered in S3 exam

### Food for Health:

- Nutrients their functions, sources and effects on health
- Dietary diseases
- Scottish Dietary Goals/Advice
- Dietary needs of individuals
- Benefits of a balanced and varied diet
- DRV 6 mark questions

### Food Product Development:

- Food product development process
- Functional properties of ingredients
- Changing quantities of ingredients
- Hygiene and safety when carrying out food tasks

## Ways to study

Revision notes, sample notes jotter, mind maps, flash cards and past paper questions.

## Study resources

All class notes/ power points and a revision guide can be found on google classroom. Past papers are available through SQA Past Paper Finder.

## Format of the exam

Question paper – you will need to state, describe, explain and evaluate.



# HISTORY



## Topics covered in S3 exam

The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770–1807

Mary Queen of Scots, and the Reformation, 1542–1587

Exam Skills: Describe, Explain, How Fully Describe, Compare

## Ways to study

Revision notes, mind maps, flash cards and past paper questions.

## Study resources

All class notes and a revision guide can be found on the class' Google Classroom. Past Papers are available through the SQA website. The BBC Bitesize website is also a useful resource.

## Format of the exam

The S3 exam will be split over two periods.

One paper will be on The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770–1807.

One paper will be on Mary Queen of Scots, and the Reformation, 1542–1587.

There will be a Describe, Explain, How Fully Describe and Compare question in each paper.





# MATHS



## Topics covered in S3 exam

- Significant Figures
- Fractions
- Percentages
- Circle - Arc length/Area of Sector, Angles in Circles, Pythagoras in Circles
- Volume
- Changing the Subject of a Formula
- Multiplying Out Brackets
- Factorising
- Straight Line
- Simultaneous Equations
- Statistics – Mean and Standard Deviation

## Ways to study

Class teachers will be pleased to help pupils with questions about revision, either in person or via Google Classroom. Extra support is also available at our weekly Wednesday lunchtime drop-in session - this takes place in room F15. Pupils can pop in to ask a quick question or stay for the duration of lunch to work independently with the support of the Maths teacher present.

## Study resources

Pupils will be provided with a revision checklist. This includes worked examples for each topic to be tested in the exam and suggested practice questions from the Zeta Maths National 5+ textbook.

## Format of the exam

The Maths S3 exam will be comprised of two papers:

- Paper 1 (Non-calculator) - 40 minutes
- Paper 2 (Calculator Allowed) - 40 minutes

# MODERN LANGUAGES

## Topics covered in S3 exam

- Personal description
- Family and friends
- Relationships with family and friends
- Pocket money
- Numbers
- Where I live
- Describing the town and the country
- The paragraphs you have prepared for the Writing Exam
- Do not forget basic S1-2 vocabulary too.

## Ways to study

- Study cards – especially for learning the writing & talking
- Past papers
- Reading homework packs
- Vocabulary learning – use the resources above
- Practise using a dictionary efficiently
- Watch/listen to French/Spanish/Mandarin – for example on Netflix
- Ask someone at home to listen to your talking/test you on your writing & talking
- Ask your teacher to record your presentation for you on your phone so you can listen to it. This will help you learn it.

## Study resources

- All relevant material is on the Google Classrooms
- Printed vocabulary booklets – also on the Google Classroom
- Reading homework packs – on the Google Classroom
- SQA website for past papers
- BBC Bitesize
- Linguascope / Quizlet / Duolingo for vocabulary & listening practise

## Format of the exam

Reading Paper (1 lesson) – reading 2 texts in French/Spanish/Mandarin and answering questions in English. You will have the use of a dictionary.

Listening Paper (approx. 25 mins) – listening to a monologue (one person talking) and then a dialogue (two people talking) in French/Spanish/Mandarin and answering questions in English. You will hear each section 3 times and can write your answers at any point.

Writing Paper (approx. 20 mins) – Writing 3 paragraphs in French / Spanish / Mandarin. These paragraphs will be prepared in advance in class, so no surprises for pupils. Pupils should learn these paragraphs in preparation for the exam. You will have the use of a dictionary.

Talking Exam – to be completed during the practical exam period. Pupils complete their Home Area presentation and then a short conversation of approx. 5 questions of their choice (on any of the topics studied so far) with their class teacher







# **MODERN STUDIES**

## **Topics covered in S3 exam**

Crime and the Law Unit  
Decision Making Questions  
Conclusion Questions

## **Ways to study**

Revision notes, mind maps, flash cards and past paper questions.

## **Study resources**

All class notes, revision guide and a guide of previous SQA Crime and Law questions can be found on the class' Google Classroom. Past Papers are available through the SQA website. The BBC Bitesize website is also a useful resource.

## **Format of the exam**

The S3 exam will be split over two periods. There will be two Crime and Law KU questions in each paper and either a Decision Making or Conclusion Question.





# MUSIC

## Topics covered in S3 exam

- Jazz and Blues
- Scottish Music
- World Music
- Musical Literacy
- Styles of Music
- Melody/Harmony
- Rhythm/Tempo
- Timbre (instruments and how they are used)

## Ways to study

Flash Cards, Past Papers, Lunchtime drop-in, Teams, My Music Online,

## Study resources

All class notes and revision support materials can be found on the class' Teams platform. Past Papers are available on the SQA website and audio will be available from your class teachers. BBC Bitesize is also a useful resource. My music online has online quizzes for all levels of music so you can test your knowledge at any point.

## Format of the exam

There are two elements that will be assessed this year. These will be sat on two separate days. You will be assessed on your two instruments and you must play two pieces on each instrument with accompaniment. You will also be assessed with a listening paper which will cover the three main topics above, using exam style questions.



# PHYSICS



## Topics covered in S3 exam

Waves  
Radiation  
Electricity

## Ways to study

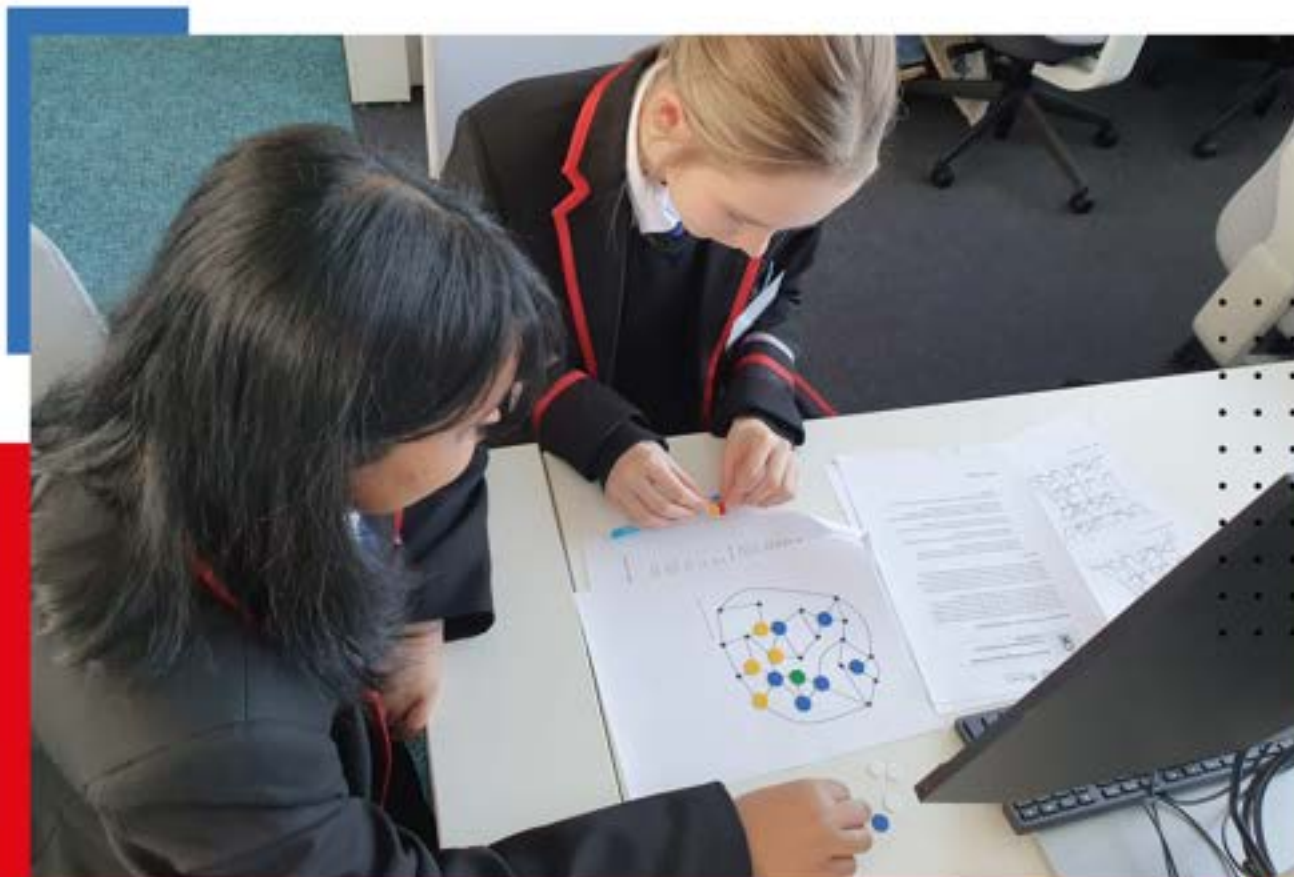
Flash cards, past papers and lunch time support can be accessed on Tuesdays and Thursdays

## Study resources

All pupils in Physics have access to a Google classroom, which again contains revision resources such as summary notes and practice questions. All parents received information on study approaches and recommended websites at the start of term, as part of a welcome letter sent to all N5 Physics candidates

## Format of the exam

2 papers, completed over 2 separate periods in class.



# PRACTICAL COOKERY

## Topics covered in S3 exam

- Understanding and using ingredients and their functions
- Food preparation techniques
- Cookery methods
- Food storage
- Sustainability – local, seasonal, food miles
- Costing
- Hygiene and safety

## Topics covered in S3 Practical exam

You will practice these dishes individually in class. You will then produce them both together during an allocated practical sessions. Similar recipes will be available online to practice at home.

## Additionally

During class time you will complete an Added Value booklet which marries up with the practical dishes to secure your AV pass in the subject. Attendance during class time will be important to complete.

## Ways to study

Revision notes, sample notes jotter, mind maps, flash cards and past paper questions. Practice similar practical dishes at home.

## Study resources

All class notes/ power points and a revision guide can be found on google classroom. Past papers are available through SQA Past Paper Finder.

## Format of the exam

### Question paper

You will need to state, describe, explain and evaluate.

### Practical Exam

You will produce 2 dishes (main course and exam) in 90 minutes.

### AV Booklet

Completed in class time.



# PRACTICAL WOODWORK

## Topics covered in S3 exam

- Measuring and marking out tools
- Reading and interpreting drawings
- Materials
- Bench work
- Flat-frame construction and assembly
- Carcase construction and assembly
- Use and care of machines and power tools
- Surface preparation and finish
- Health and safety
- Sustainability and recycling

## Ways to study

Flash cards, revision notes, PowerPoints on Google Classroom, practice questions, paying attention to processes in the workshop and thinking about how you would describe what you are doing e.g. How would you cut a corner halving joint? What tools would you use? What order would you do the steps?

## Study resources

Google Classroom  
SQA Website

## Format of the exam

2 x 45 minute exams, 40 marks each



# RMPS



## Topics covered in S3 exam

The exam will cover Morality Medicine and the Human body.

## Ways to study

Revision notes, Flash cards, mind maps, past papers, lunchtime support, revision sheets, Blurting (writing out everything you can remember on a sheet of paper and then checking what you have missed.)

## Study resources

All resources can be found on the class Team's page.

## Format of the exam

The exam will take place over 2 periods

- Paper 1 – Euthanasia
- Paper 2 - the treatment of embryos.



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