

Saint Ninian's High School S3 Information Booklet



**English Department
@stniniansEng**



Course Content

The National 5 (N5) English course is structured to allow for breadth, depth and challenge for all pupils. The course aim is to develop pupils' skills in reading, writing, listening and talking. National 4 English is assessed internally and has no exam.

N5 Students' reading and writing will be assessed externally by way of an examination at the end of S4. This examination consists of:

- **Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation**

(1 hour paper, 30 marks = 30% of Grade)

- **Critical Essay/Textual Analysis**

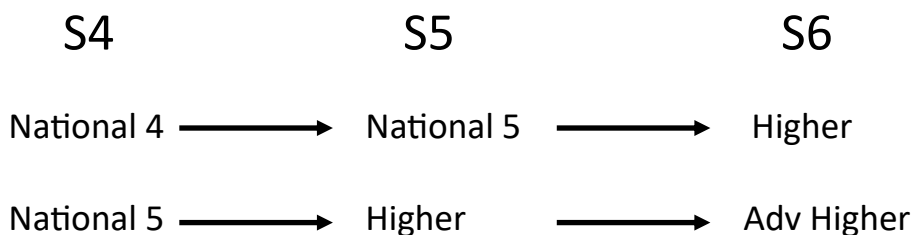
(1½ hour paper, 20 marks essay, 20 marks Textual Analysis = 40% of Grade)

There is also a **Writing Folio** consisting of two pieces submitted by Christmas — Personal Reflective/Creative and Persuasive/Discursive— 15 marks each = 30% of the final grade)



Pathways

Outlined below are the common pathways taken by most pupils in order to fully develop skills in reading, writing, listening and talking. These routes are fully flexible to ensure all pupils can work towards meeting their full potential.



The Importance of Reading

To help your son/daughter develop the necessary skills it would be extremely useful to choose a newspaper article with him/her from a quality broadsheet e.g. The Sunday Times: News Review section has many suitable articles – and to read it through together, **discussing** the following points:



- The main ideas raised in the article
- The point of view of the author
- The meaning of difficult/unfamiliar words
- The tone of the article



This activity, carried out once a week, will have a very positive impact on your son/daughter's progress in English.

Improving Writing

We also ask for your support and assistance in improving your child's basic literacy skills. Often, the overall quality of written work is affected by basic errors in areas such as punctuation, spelling and grammar.

We suggest that for any significant pieces of homework (for example folio drafts/critical essays) that you use the check list to help him/her proof read their work to eliminate any basic errors that could impact the overall quality of their work.

- Presentation and handwriting*
- Paragraph organisation*
- Accurate and varied sentence length and type*
- Spelling & Punctuation*
- Appropriate and varied vocabulary*
- Grammar rules*
- Connectives and conjunctions*
- Proof read for any typing errors*

Useful Links



Twitter @stniniansEng @stniniansLib

Websites:

Saint Ninian's High School > Departments > English:

Contains advice, study materials, timeline, homework packs and some Past Papers.

Saint Ninian's High School > Departments > Library:

A wealth of information about all kinds of reading activities, strategies, texts, competitions, advice, encouragement etc.

Scottish Qualification Authority Website (SQA):

Contains general advice for candidates, Past Papers, Specimen Papers, Course outlines.

SQA Understanding Standards > www.understandingstandards.org.uk:

This site gives examples of exam work and markers' commentaries.

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize>

Contains study materials, revision tools, quizzes.

Scholar: <http://scholar.hw.ac.uk/>

Contains study materials, activities, worksheets. Your son/daughter will have a username and password for this site.

<http://theday.co.uk/> An online news and reading service for schools.

Also:

Various "Word of the Day" apps on social media offer an enjoyable way to grow your vocabulary.

Several educational publishers have created resources linked to the National 4/5 courses in English. Check carefully for publications with SQA endorsement.

Even traditional games like Boggle, Scrabble and Crosswords can have their place in building knowledge and confidence, as well as enjoyment of using words and ideas.

PISA Study <https://www.tes.com/news/reading-fiction-boosts-learning-10-months>