



CALDERHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

2025-2026

COMMUNITY

AMBITION

RESPECT

EQUITY

SUCCESS

Calderhead High School

S2 Pathways



Introduction

This booklet provides an overview of the option choices available and we ask that you take time to read over it carefully before making your final choices. In addition to this booklet other supports will be made available to you during the decision making process including:

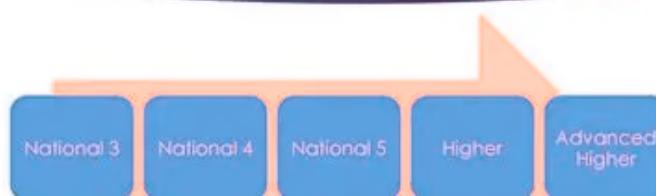
- Curricular Pathways Information Evening
- Discussions around curricular pathways through PSHE and DYW
- A meeting with your Pupil Support Teacher to discuss your proposed pathway choices
- Information sharing through Year Group assemblies
- A list of useful websites can be found below to allow young people and adults to read about National Qualifications, course outlines and assessment structures.

SCQF Structure

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework has 12 levels. The different levels indicate the level of difficulty of a particular qualification. The table below allows broad comparisons to be made between qualifications and learning, and allow learners to understand the range of skills and learning that should be achieved at each level.

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

Progression Routes



National Qualifications Explained

This booklet has focused on the National 5 and SCQF Level 5 of each particular subject area.

National 3, National 4 and SCQF Level 3-4 courses will be more suitable for some young people and although the course content is very similar across all National levels, there are some differences as highlighted below.

Level of Demand and Challenge

National 4 sits at SCQF Level 4 and National 3 at SCQF Level 3, whereas National 5 is at SCQF Level 5, making N5 more academically demanding. Qualifications Scotland confirms that National 4 courses have a lower level of challenge compared with National 5.

No External Exam

National 3 and National 4 courses are internally assessed, while most National 5 subjects require passing an external Qualifications Scotland exam.

For learners who struggle with high-stakes exams, N3/N4 provide a more supportive assessment structure.

Building Confidence and Core Skills

The structure of N3 and N4 allows pupils to develop foundational knowledge, skills and confidence gradually before attempting the higher expectations at National 5. They act as stepping-stone qualifications within the progression pathway outlined by Qualifications Scotland.

Designed for Learners Needing More Support

National 3 and 4 recognise that pupils progress at different rates and provide flexibility and personalisation in learning. They focus on practical learning and skill development, helping young people achieve success without the pressure of advanced academic content.

At Calderhead High School, we will always recommend a level of course which is based on all available information around your child.

Pathway Procedures

As your child approaches the end of S2, they begin an important stage in their learning journey: selecting their Pathways into S3 and S4. The stages below have been designed to guide you through that process and help you understand the choices available.

The S2 Pathways stage is not about deciding on a final career or limiting future opportunities. Instead, it allows young people to build on their interests, develop their strengths, and experience greater responsibility for their learning. The subjects chosen will help prepare your child for the Senior Phase, where they will progress to National Qualifications at a level appropriate to them.

S2 predictions out to depts in Jan to complete

All staff of S2 pupils are asked to predict what level of course each young person may achieve by the end of S4. They will use a standardised cycle of assessments and moderation which ensure accurate, valid and reliable information is being used.

The predictions for each subject will be one of the following:

- National 5
- National 4
- National 3

Pupil Input Sessions - Pathways Process

During allocated class time, school staff will talk through the pathways form, the subject areas available and offer guidance on how to complete a draft form. The draft form gives the school a good idea of what pathways are required and allows us to forward plan the construction of the new school timetable for next session to meet the requirements of the pupils.

Pupils will select one subject from each column. A subject can only be selected in one column.

Draft Form Analysis

School staff will analyse the pupils initial choices on the draft form against the subject specialist predictions. We will begin to formulate a bespoke pathway for your child as they move into S3 and S4 which will maximise their chances of achieving the highest level of attainment possible across available subjects for next session.

Pathway Evening

- Staff will explain how Pathways work, and how chosen subjects lead into National Qualifications in the Senior Phase.
- Subject specialists will be on hand to outline the content, skills and learning experiences offered within their subjects, helping you see what each course involves and where it can lead
- You will hear how S3 choices connect to future pathways, including National 3–5 courses, Higher subjects, college partnerships, and longer-term career opportunities.
- Pastoral and support staff will be available to discuss individual needs, answer questions, and offer advice to help young people select subjects that match their strengths and aspirations.
- The evening aims to reassure families, reduce uncertainty, and ensure that every young person feels supported as they take this important step in their learning journey.

Pupil Interviews

School staff will interview pupils and pre-populate the final pathways form to be shared and signed by parents/carers.

Relevant changes to the pre-populated form can be made after discussion with the pupil/parent/carer.





Administration & IT - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Administration & IT develops practical administrative and digital skills used in modern workplaces. The course combines administration theory with extensive use of IT applications, allowing learners to complete realistic tasks linked to business and event contexts.

The course has two main areas of study. Administration Theory explores the role of administrators within organisations, including customer service, health and safety, security of people, property and information, file management, corporate image, and effective electronic communication. IT Applications develops skills in using industry-standard software to create, manage and communicate information. Learners work with word-processing and desktop publishing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations and electronic communication tools.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	42%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	50	2 hours
Assignment	58%	In Class Assignment	70	3 hours

Course Assessment Information

Assessment for National 5 Administration & IT is designed to assess learners' ability to apply administrative knowledge and IT skills in realistic contexts. It focuses on:

- Breadth – skills and knowledge drawn from across theory and IT applications
- Challenge – applying skills accurately under controlled conditions
- Application – completing practical administrative and IT tasks

Assessment consists of two components. The question paper (50 marks) assesses administration theory, problem-solving and the use of spreadsheets and databases. The assignment (70 marks) requires learners to complete a series of practical tasks linked to an event or business, using word-processing, desktop publishing, presentations and electronic communication.

Assessment is set and marked by Qualifications Scotland. Successful completion also gives automatic certification of Core Skill ICT at SCQF level 5.



Administration & IT - National 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing National 5 Administration & IT, learners can progress to Higher Administration & IT or related subjects such as Business Management or other business-focused courses.

The course also supports progression to college courses in administration, business, office technologies and customer services.

Careers/Skills

Possible careers include:

Administrative Assistant, Office Administrator, Business Support Officer, Receptionist, HR or Finance Assistant, and customer-facing roles across many sectors.

Skills developed include:

- Advanced IT and digital literacy
- Organisation, time management and accuracy
- Problem-solving in workplace contexts
- Communication and professional presentation
- Understanding of administrative practice

These transferable skills are valued across the public, private and third sectors.





Applications of Maths - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Applications of Mathematics focuses on developing practical mathematical skills used in real-life situations, further study, and the workplace. Learners build confidence in numeracy, including percentages, fractions, ratios, proportions, time, and financial calculations such as budgeting, bills, interest, and comparison of best-buy options.

The course covers geometry and measure, including scale drawing, perimeter, area, volume, bearings and interpreting plans or maps. Learners apply these skills to everyday contexts such as construction, design, and navigation.

In statistics and probability, pupils learn how to collect, display, analyse, and interpret data using graphs, averages, standard deviation, and risk. They use information to draw conclusions and make informed decisions.

Problem-solving is integrated throughout, with learners applying methods to realistic tasks involving money, measurement, planning, and interpreting information. The course prepares students for National 5 assessment and supports progression to college, apprenticeships, and practical STEM pathways.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Paper 1	39%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	35	50mins
Paper 2	61%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	55	1hr 40mins

Course Assessment Information

National 5 Applications of Mathematics is assessed through two final exam papers. Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) tests numeracy, reasoning, and problem-solving in areas such as finance, statistics, and measurement. Paper 2 (Calculator) includes multi-step, real-life problems involving geometry, data interpretation, and financial decision-making.

Both papers require clear working and mathematical reasoning. Questions range from straightforward procedural tasks to extended problems in unfamiliar situations.

Throughout the year, learners complete class assessments, past-paper practice, and teacher-designed tasks to monitor progress. These help develop accuracy, confidence, and exam technique.



Applications of Maths - National 5

Progression Pathway

In addition to National 5 Applications of Maths, young people have the opportunity to obtain the National 5 Numeracy Award, which is valued by employers and colleges, and supports progression into: Highers, colleges, apprenticeships, the workplace. It is particularly helpful for pupils who want to demonstrate strong practical mathematical skills.

Qualifications

After completing this course, pupils can progress to Higher Applications of Mathematics.

Careers/Skills

Possible career pathways:

- Business, Finance & Administration - administrative assistant, finance assistant, payroll or accounts clerk, customer service advisor
- Healthcare & Community Roles - healthcare support worker, dental nurse (training route), nursery or early years support worker, social care assistant
- Trades, Construction & Technical Work - construction apprentice, electrician or plumbing apprentice (foundation level), joinery, painting, or engineering operative, building services or surveying support roles
- Retail, Hospitality & Tourism - retail supervisor or sales assistant, hotel, reception, or front-of-house staff, catering or events assistant
- Transport & Logistics - warehouse or stock control operative, delivery operative, transport planning assistant (entry level)
- Digital & Data-Related Roles (entry routes) - data technician apprentice, IT support trainee

National 5 Applications of Maths shows employers you can use practical numeracy, follow instructions, work accurately, and solve everyday problems—skills valued in many workplaces and apprenticeships.





Art & Design - National 5

Course Content/Structure

The National 5 Art & Design course provides a broad, investigative and practical experience of art and design. Creativity is the key focus of the course.

In the course, pupils draw upon their understanding of artists' and designers' work and practice. They follow art and design processes to develop their own creative work. They also reflect on and evaluate their creative processes and the qualities of their expressive and design portfolios.

The course comprises of two areas of study:

Expressive

This part of the course helps pupils plan, research and develop creative expressive work in response to a theme. Pupils develop knowledge and understanding of artists' working practices and the social, cultural and other influences affecting their work and practice. Pupils select a theme and produce 2D/3D analytical drawings, studies and research, and use this to produce a single line of development leading to a final piece. Pupils reflect on and evaluate their creative process and the visual qualities of their work.

Design

This part of the course helps pupils plan, research and develop creative design work in response to a design brief. Pupils develop knowledge and understanding of designers' working practices and the social, cultural and other influences affecting their work and practice. Pupils select a design brief and compile a variety of 2D/3D investigative material and market research and use this to produce a single line of development leading to a design solution. Pupils reflect on and evaluate their creative process and the aesthetic and functional qualities of their work.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	20%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	40	1 hour & 20 minutes
Expressive Portfolio	40%	Portfolio	100	On going - during class time
Design Portfolio	40%	Portfolio	100	On going - during class time





Art & Design - National 5

Course Assessment Information

National 5 Art and Design is assessed through three components.

Question Paper

The question paper assesses pupils' knowledge and understanding of art and design practice in an extended-response format. The questions test pupils' ability to comment on art and design work, demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the impact social, cultural and other influences on an artist's and a designer's work and give justified opinions on identified aspects of art and design practice and issues.

Expressive Portfolio

The portfolio assesses pupils' ability to integrate and apply practical art skills and their knowledge and understanding of art practice across the course. Throughout the portfolio, pupils demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding by producing analytical drawings leading to a final piece, use materials, techniques and the visual elements as well as reflect on and evaluate their creative process.

Design Portfolio

The portfolio assesses pupils' ability to integrate and apply practical design skills and their knowledge and understanding of design practice across the course. Throughout the portfolio, pupils demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding by responding to their design brief, producing investigative material leading to a design solution, use materials, techniques and understanding of design elements as well as reflect on and evaluate their creative process.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing this course, pupils can progress to Higher Art and Design, which further develops skills in using a range of art and design materials and techniques creatively.

National 5 Art and Design also opens a variety of college pathways, covering disciplines like graphic design, illustration, fashion, and photography.

Careers/Skills

Studying National 5 Art and Design develops confidence, creativity, communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience. Skills gained are highly transferable into other courses and real life.

Possible Careers:

Printing, Animation, Interior Designer, Landscape Design, Make-up Artistry, Architecture, illustration, Set Design, Modelmaking, Costume Design, Hairdressing, Web Design, Fashion Design, Floristry, Sign Making, Art Therapy, Advertising, Furniture Design, Visual Merchandising, Photography, Textile Design, Digital Design, Graphic Design, Teaching

Biology - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Biology helps students understand how living things work, from cells and plants to the human body and the environment. The courses develop scientific knowledge, practical skills, and the ability to apply biology to real-life situations.

The course is divided into three main units:

Unit 1 - Cell Biology

- Cell structure and function (plant and animal cells)
- DNA, genes and protein synthesis
- Respiration in plants and animals
- Genetic engineering
- Use of stem cells and their ethical issues

Unit 2 - Multicellular Organisms

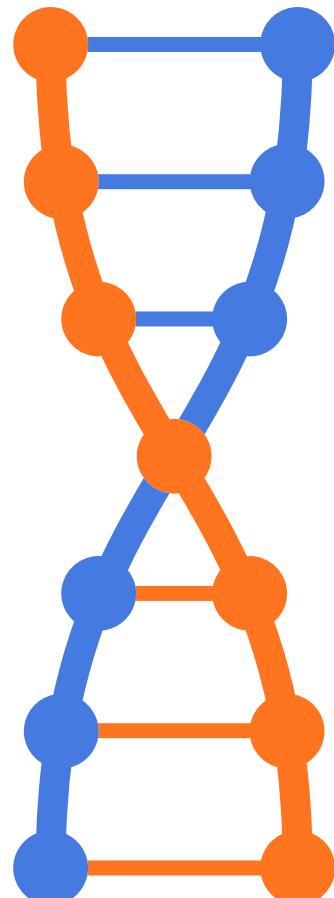
- How organisms produce new cells
- Control and communication in organisms (nervous and hormonal systems)
- Reproduction in plants and animals
- Variation and genetic inheritance

Unit 3 - Life on Earth

- Photosynthesis
- Biodiversity
- Food webs, ecosystems and population growth
- Food production

Skills students will develop throughout the course:

- Carry out practical experiments safely and writing scientific reports
- Collect, analyse and interpret data
- Solve problems using biological knowledge
- Develop scientific literacy and exam techniques



Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	80%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	100	2 hours 30 minutes
Assignment	20%	Assignment Report (class time & exam)	20	8 hours plus 1 hour 30 minutes for final report



Biology - National 5

Course Assessment Information

All three units are assessed in class at the end of the unit.

In addition to class assessments, S3 students will undertake a S3 exam which will help determine their level for S4 (N3/N4/N5).

- By the end of S4, N3 students must complete the 3 Qualifications Scotland unit assessments plus a laboratory report.
- By the end of S4, N4 students must complete the 3 Qualifications Scotland assessments plus an Added Value Unit.
- By the end of S4, N5 students will undertake a prelim, an Assignment Report and the final Qualifications Scotland exam.

All assessments are of Qualifications Scotland standard. They include multiple choice and extended response questions covering:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Problem solving (includes graphs and calculations)
- Experimental techniques and analysis of results
- Applying knowledge to new scientific situations

Homework

Students will be expected to complete regular homework tasks. In addition, they must commit to regular revision of notes to ensure understanding of new material.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After successfully completing the National 5 Biology course, students can progress to study Higher Human Biology in S5/S6 or apply to various college courses.

Current Biology related college courses:

- NQ in Animal Biology & Conservation – Level 5 (New College Lanarkshire): Minimum of four National 5s or equivalent grade C qualification passes. Two should be in English and Mathematics and at least one science from Biology, Chemistry or Physics.
- Route to Health Professions – Level 6 (West Lothian College): 4 subjects at National 5 including English and Biology. Interview.
- Applied Sciences – Level 6 (Glasgow Clyde College): National 5 English, Maths, Biology and Chemistry at A or B, or NQ Applied Sciences (Level 5). Interview.

Careers/Skills

Biology is particularly important in the following careers: Nursing, childcare, doctor, food and drug industry, dentist, vet, primary teacher, medical receptionist, dental hygienist, social worker, hairdresser, beautician, working with animals, sports scientist and sports coaching, paramedic, secondary teaching, industrial research scientist, medical biochemists.



Business Management - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Business Management develops learners' understanding of how businesses operate in a dynamic and competitive environment. The course focuses on how organisations make decisions, manage resources and respond to internal and external influences.

The course is organised around five key areas of study. In Understanding Business, learners explore the role of business in society, different types of organisations, stakeholders and business objectives. Management of Marketing examines how businesses identify customer needs, carry out market research and use the marketing mix to remain competitive. Management of Operations focuses on production methods, quality, suppliers and ethical and environmental issues. Management of People develops understanding of recruitment, training, motivation, employment legislation and workforce management. Management of Finance introduces financial decision-making through sources of finance, break-even, cash budgets and income statements.

Across all areas, learners develop decision-making, analysis and communication skills using realistic business contexts.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	75%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	90	2 hours
Assignment	25%	In Class Assignment	30	5 hours

Course Assessment Information

Assessment for National 5 Business Management is designed to assess learners' ability to apply business knowledge and skills in familiar and unfamiliar contexts. It focuses on:

- Breadth – knowledge drawn from all five areas of the course
- Challenge – applying understanding to business situations with some complexity
- Application – using business concepts to analyse information and make decisions

Assessment consists of two components. The question paper (75%) assesses interpretation, analysis and evaluation of business information using stimulus material. The assignment (25%) requires learners to research a real or realistic business issue and produce a structured business report including analysis and justified conclusions or recommendations.

Assessment is set and marked by Qualifications Scotland, ensuring national standards and consistency.



Business Management - National 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing National 5 Business Management, learners can progress to Higher Business Management or related subjects such as Administration & IT, or other social subjects. College pathways include business, finance, administration and management-related courses.

Careers/Skills

Possible careers include:

Business Administrator, Marketing Assistant, HR Assistant, Finance Assistant, Retail or Operations Management roles, and self-employment or entrepreneurship pathways.

- Skills developed include:
- Decision-making and problem-solving
- Financial awareness and data interpretation
- Communication and report-writing
- Enterprise and employability skills
- Understanding of how organisations operate

These transferable skills are highly valued across business, public and third-sector employment.





Chemistry - National 5

Course Content/Structure

The courses offered aim to give pupils an insight into the importance of Chemistry in everyday life but also cover the important chemical concepts to allow pupils to extend their studies, if wished.

The study of chemistry is broken down into 3 units.

Chemical Changes and Structure

- Atomic structure
- Symbols and the mole
- Chemical reactions and their rates
- Substances and bonding
- Acids and alkalis

Nature's Chemistry

- Hydrocarbon families
- Reactions of organic compounds
- Fuels and energy release

Chemistry in Society

- Metals and their reactions
- Electrochemistry
- Plastics and synthetic fibres
- Fertiliser production
- Nuclear Chemistry



Many of the concepts in the courses are introduced by experiment work. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn and develop a range of practical laboratory skills.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	80%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	100	2 hours 30 minutes
Assignment	20%	Assignment Report (class time & exam)	20	8 hours plus 1 hour 30 minutes for final report



Chemistry - National 5

Course Assessment Information

Throughout the course, there are class assessments in each unit, covering several topics.

There is an exam at the end of S3 which examines everything learned in S3. This helps to determine the most appropriate level for study in S4 (N3, N4 or N5)

- N5 students will sit a prelim which will give an indication of potential performance in the final exam.
- N5 students will also complete an assignment, comprising a report on a research task and an experiment. This is externally marked and contributes to 20% of the final grade.
- N3 and N4 students have no final exam but must pass the 3 internally assessed unit tests.
- N3 students must also produce a Learning Outcome 1 laboratory report.
- N4 students must complete an Added Value Unit report on an experiment they have done.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Students who achieve a good pass in N5 Chemistry can go on and study Higher Chemistry in S5. This can lead on to further studies leading to careers in Chemical Science.

The level 6 course Access to Science and Health at South Lanarkshire College can offer entry with an N5 qualification.

For students wanting to carry on into Higher, there are many college and University courses which focus on Chemistry, including:

- HNC in Applied Science at South Lanarkshire College
- BSc (Hons) Chemistry at the University of the West of Scotland
- BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry at Glasgow University
- BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering at Heriot Watt University

Careers/Skills

Chemistry is needed in the following careers:

Pharmacy, physiotherapy, dentistry, medicine, nursing, vet, engineering, food technology, laboratory technician, forensic science, hairdressing, textile technology, teaching, business management, research.

In addition, the problem solving and data handling skills learned in the Chemistry course are assets in a wider range of careers and jobs.



Design & Manufacture - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Design and Manufacture is a practical and creative course for learners who enjoy designing, making and solving real-world problems. The course develops a strong balance of design thinking and hands-on manufacturing skills, preparing pupils for further study or careers in design, engineering and manufacturing.

The course is built around two integrated areas: Design and Manufacture. In Design, learners analyse a design brief, carry out focused research, and generate and develop ideas into a final design proposal. They use sketching, modelling and graphics to communicate ideas and apply knowledge of function, performance, aesthetics, ergonomics and market needs to justify design decisions.

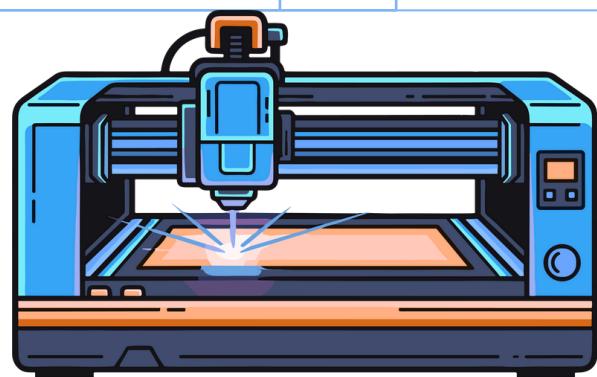
In Manufacture, learners plan and safely manufacture a prototype or product based on their design proposal. This includes selecting appropriate materials, tools and processes, producing working drawings and cutting lists, and applying accurate measuring, cutting, forming, assembling and finishing techniques. Learners also develop an understanding of commercial manufacturing processes and the impact of design and manufacturing on society and the environment.

Assessment consists of a written question paper and two linked practical assignments (design and manufacture), which allow learners to demonstrate both theoretical knowledge and practical ability. The course is assessed and certificated by Qualifications Scotland.

This course is well suited to practical learners and provides strong progression to Higher Technologies courses, apprenticeships and technical career pathways.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	45%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	80	1 hour and 45 minutes
Assignment – design	30%	Assignment (During class time)	55	As required
Assignment – practical	25%	Assignment (During class time)	45	As required





Design & Manufacture - National 5

Course Assessment Information

The assessment for National 5 Design and Manufacture is designed to check a wide range of practical skills, design thinking and knowledge developed across the course. It focuses on:

- Breadth – using skills and knowledge from both design and manufacture
- Challenge – applying understanding to increasingly complex design and manufacturing tasks
- Application – putting learning into practice in real design, workshop and commercial contexts

Pupils will be expected to:

- Explain and describe materials, tools, manufacturing processes and design factors
- Analyse a design brief and justify decisions using research and a specification
- Develop and communicate design ideas using graphics and modelling
- Plan and manufacture a product safely and accurately
- Evaluate both design proposals and finished products

Assessment includes a written question paper and two linked practical assignments (design and manufacture). These allow pupils to demonstrate both theoretical understanding and hands-on ability. The course is assessed and certificated by Qualifications Scotland, ensuring a strong balance of practical skills and academic understanding valued by employers and colleges.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing National 5 Design and Manufacture, pupils can progress to Higher Design and Manufacture or related subjects such as Higher Graphic Communication, National 5 Practical Metalworking, National 5 Practical Woodworking, or Higher Art and Design.

The course also supports progression to college courses including:

- Product Design
- Engineering
- Manufacturing and Fabrication
- Construction and Built Environment
- CAD/CAM and Industrial Design

These pathways provide routes into further education, training and apprenticeships.

Careers/Skills

Possible careers include:

Product Designer, Engineer, Manufacturing Technician, CAD Technician, Joiner, Metal Fabricator, Toolmaker, and roles within modern manufacturing industries.

Skills developed include:

- Creative and practical problem-solving
- Design thinking and decision-making
- Safe use of tools, materials and processes
- Planning, accuracy and quality control
- Evaluation and reflection

These transferable skills are highly valued across technical, engineering and creative industries.



Drama - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Drama develops learners' skills in creating, presenting and producing drama, while encouraging imagination, creativity and confidence. Students explore a range of dramatic forms, genres, structures and styles, learning how to respond to stimuli, develop characters and shape ideas into effective performance pieces.

The course provides practical experience in devising drama, working collaboratively, and using rehearsal activities to refine character, movement, voice and staging. Learners also gain knowledge of production skills, including lighting, sound, set, costume, props and makeup, applying these creatively during performance work.

Students analyse social and cultural influences on drama and learn to evaluate both their own work and the work of others, developing critical and reflective skills. They study theatrical conventions, structure and key moments to understand how drama communicates meaning.

Through live performance experiences and practical exploration, the course builds teamwork, problem-solving and communication skills, preparing learners for further study in Drama or the wider creative industries

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	40%	Writing	60	1 hour 30 minutes
Textual Analysis	60%	Performance	60	Variable

Course Assessment Information

National 5 Drama has two externally assessed components:

- Question Paper – 60 marks (40% of total) – timed exam assessing drama knowledge, evaluation, and response to stimuli.
- Performance – 60 marks (60% of total) – practical performance of a text or dramatic piece, assessed by an Qualifications Scotland visiting assessor.

The grade awarded is based on the total marks from both components and graded A–D.



Drama - National 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

National 5 Drama allows pupils to progress to Higher Drama and other Senior Phase qualifications. It also supports entry to college courses in performing arts, creative industries and related areas, as well as apprenticeships and further training programmes.

Careers/Skills

The course develops strong communication, teamwork, creativity and confidence. Pupils learn to collaborate, problem-solve and perform under pressure. These skills support careers such as actor, theatre technician, stage manager, events assistant, youth worker, teaching assistant, marketing assistant and roles in the creative industries and public-facing professions.

- Actor
- Stage technician
- Lighting technician
- Sound technician
- Stage manager
- Events assistant
- Youth worker
- Teaching assistant
- Front-of-house theatre staff





English - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 English helps pupils develop key skills in reading, writing, listening and talking. Throughout the course, pupils study a range of Scottish and wider texts, including fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction. They learn how writers use language to create meaning and impact.

Pupils will practise critical reading skills such as understanding main ideas, analysing language techniques, and evaluating writers' viewpoints. Writing skills are developed through creative writing (stories or personal pieces) and/or discursive writing (persuasive or argumentative essays).

Talking and listening skills are developed through presentations, group discussions and debates, helping pupils to express ideas clearly and confidently.

The course is taught through engaging texts and real-world topics, with regular feedback to help pupils improve. National 5 English supports success across other subjects and prepares pupils for further study, work and life beyond school.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
RUAE	30%	Reading	30	1 hour
Critical Reading	40%	Reading and Writing	40	1 hour 30
Folio	30%	Writing	30	On-going

Course Assessment Information

1. Reading

Pupils read and understand non-fiction texts, such as articles, reports or instructions. They show they can:

Find key information

Explain ideas in their own words

Understand purpose and audience

2. Writing

Pupils produce functional or personal writing, for example emails, reports, blogs or reflective pieces.

They must show:

Clear communication

Appropriate structure and tone

Accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar

3. Listening and Talking

Pupils take part in discussions or presentations, showing they can:

Communicate ideas clearly

Listen and respond appropriately

Work with others

Evidence is gathered during normal classwork



English - National 5

In addition to National 5 English, young people have the opportunity to obtain the National 5 Literacy Award, which is valued by employers and colleges, and supports progression into: Highers, colleges, apprenticeships, the workplace. It is particularly helpful for pupils who want to demonstrate strong practical communication skills.

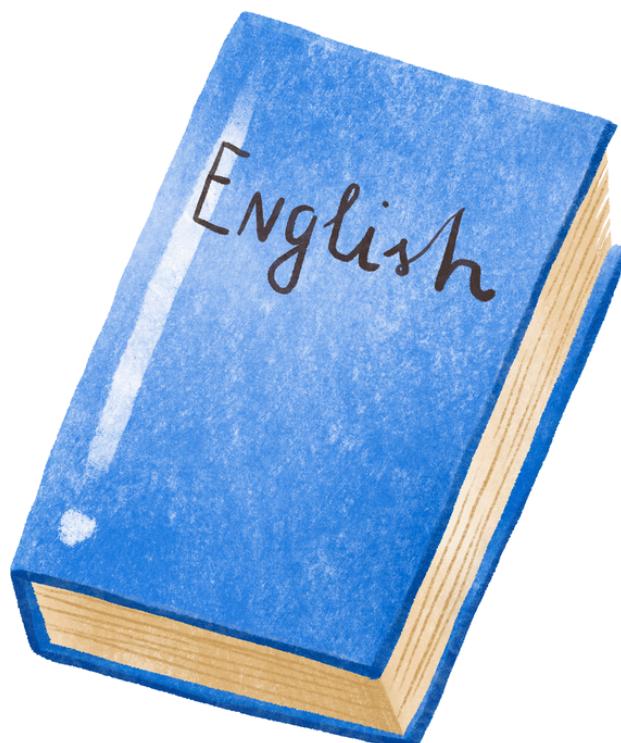
Progression Pathway

Qualifications

National 5 English allows pupils to progress to Higher English and other Higher courses in the Senior Phase. It also supports entry to college courses, apprenticeships, and further training programmes. National 5 English is often a minimum entry requirement for many courses and qualifications.

Careers/Skills

- Journalist
- Editor
- Copywriter
- Author / Writer
- Blogger / Content Creator
- Scriptwriter
- Solicitor
- Advocate / Barrister
- Paralegal
- Police Officer
- Civil Servant
- Court Reporter
- Primary Teacher
- Secondary Teacher
- Lecturer
- Classroom Assistant
- Education Support Worker
- Marketing Executive
- Public Relations Officer
- Communications Officer
- Human Resources Officer
- Social Media Manager
- Actor
- Playwright
- Theatre Director
- Social Worker
- Youth Worker
- Counsellor
- Speech and Language Therapy Assistant
- Librarian
- Museum Guide
- Tour Guide ...





Geography - National 5

Course Content/Structure

Geography helps you understand the world around you – from how landscapes form to why populations change and how global issues shape everyday life. It builds analytical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to interpret real-world data, all of which are valued by employers and universities.

The topics covered are listed below:

- Physical Environments – Map skills, Weather, coasts/glaciation or rivers/limestone and land use conflicts.
- Human Environments – urban, rural, population and map skills.
- Global Issues – Climate change/development and health or natural regions/environmental hazards.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	80%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	80	2 hours 20 minutes
Assignment	20%	Assignment (During class time)	20	1 hour

Course Assessment Information

1. Question Paper (Exam) – 80 marks

- Mixture of knowledge, application, and skills questions
- Covers Physical, Human, and Global Issues
- Includes mapwork, diagrams, and data interpretation

2. Assignment – 20 marks

- Independent research project on a chosen geographical topic
- Involves gathering and processing information
- Completed under supervised conditions and sent to Qualifications Scotland for marking

Together, these components assess how well pupils can apply geographical knowledge, interpret information and communicate their findings clearly.



Geography - National 5

Progression Pathway

After completing this course, pupils can progress to Higher Geography.

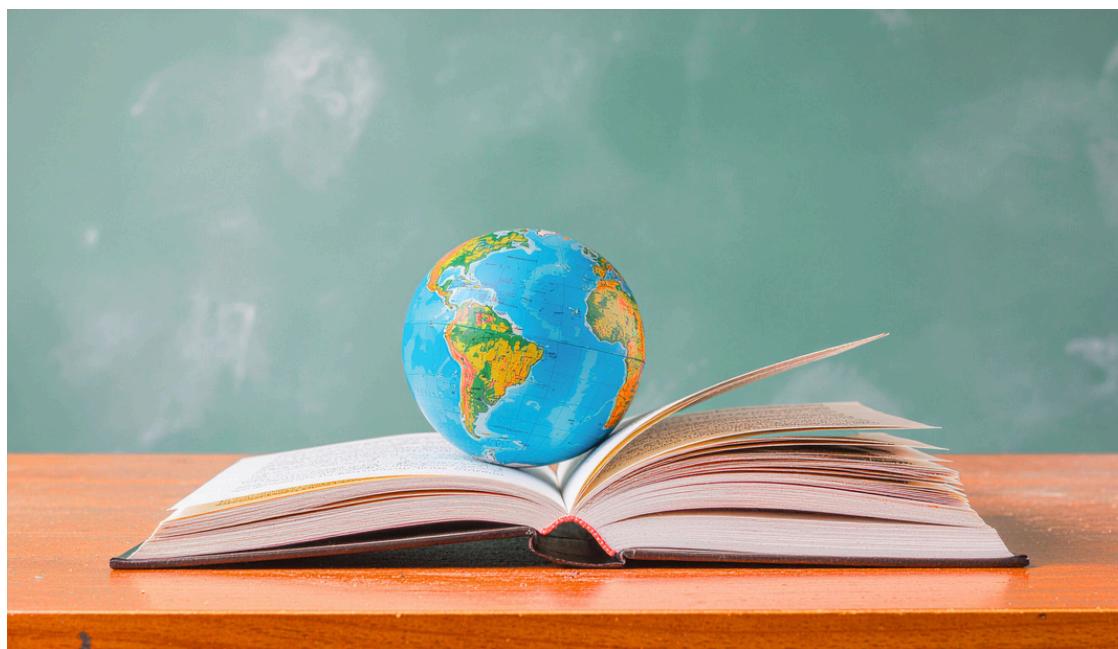
Geography is seen as a desirable qualification by most universities and many of their courses. Not only is it an essay-based subject which prepares pupils for the level of writing required at university, but it is also renowned for preparing pupils with problem solving and research skills.

Possible Careers:

- Environmental work
- Engineering
- Geophysics
- Leisure and recreation
- Nature conservation
- Surveying
- Teaching
- Town planning
- Transport management
- Travel and tourism

Skills Developed:

- Interpreting and analysing maps, graphs, and data
- Applying geographical knowledge to current global issues
- Carrying out fieldwork using sampling and measurement methods
- Processing, presenting, and evaluating information
- Communicating findings clearly using geographical terminology
- Building problem-solving and critical-thinking skills
- Managing time and working independently





Graphic Communication - National 5

Course Content/Structure

This course develops skills in visual communication and design using both manual and digital techniques. You will learn how to produce clear and accurate graphics for a range of purposes, including technical drawings, illustrations, and presentations. The course combines creativity with precision, helping you understand how graphics are used in industries such as engineering, architecture, and product design.

Key areas include:

2D and 3D Graphics: Creating detailed drawings and models using CAD software and traditional methods.

Illustration and Presentation: Developing skills to communicate ideas effectively through sketches and digital layouts.

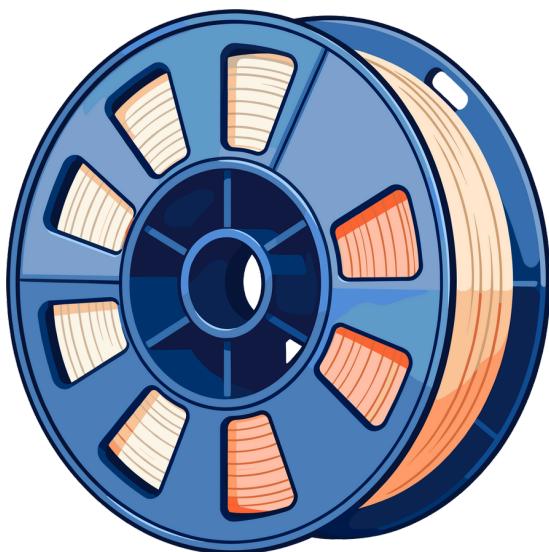
Design Principles: Exploring colour, layout, and typography to produce professional-quality work.

Standards and Conventions: Learning industry practices for technical accuracy.

Assessment involves practical assignments and a final exam, focusing on both knowledge and application. This course is ideal for students interested in design, technology, or creative careers. It also provides a strong foundation for progression to Higher Graphic Communication or related fields.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	67%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	80	2 Hours
Assignment	33%	Assignment (During class time)	40	8 Hours





Graphic Communication - National 5

Course Assessment Information

The assessment is designed to check a wide range of skills and understanding developed throughout the course. It looks at:

Breadth – using knowledge and skills from all parts of the course

Challenge – showing deeper understanding and tackling more complex tasks

Application – putting learning into practice in real or theoretical situations

Students will be expected to:

Explain and describe graphic communication techniques, methods, and standards

Interpret unfamiliar graphics and understand what they show

Suggest solutions to simple design problems using recognised approaches

Create a graphic solution to a more challenging design problem using their skills and knowledge

This means pupils won't just learn how to draw or use software – they'll also develop problem-solving skills and the ability to communicate ideas clearly and accurately, which are valuable in many careers.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing this course, pupils can progress to Higher Graphic Communication or related subjects such as Higher Design and Manufacture or Higher Art & Design.

College Courses:

- Digital Design
- Product Design
- Architecture and Built Environment
- Engineering and CAD

Careers/Skills

Possible Careers:

Graphic Designer, Architect, Interior Designer, Product Designer, Engineer, Marketing and Advertising roles.

Skills Developed:

- Creativity and visual thinking
- Technical drawing and CAD skills
- Problem-solving and design solutions
- Communication and presentation skills
- Attention to detail and accuracy

This course provides a strong foundation for careers in design, technology, and engineering, and helps develop transferable skills valued in many industries.



Hairdressing - National 5

Course Content/Structure

Course Content/Structure:

The Qualifications Scotland National 5 Skills for Work: Hairdressing course is a vocational qualification designed to give young people a practical, industry-focused introduction to hairdressing and salon work. The course focuses on both the development of core technical skills and employability skills, all transferable to post school aspirations.

Content –

The course covers practical salon skills such as shampooing, conditioning and basic scalp massage, drying and styling hair, and an introduction to hair colouring techniques. Young people explore creative hair trends and have opportunities to apply these in practical tasks, helping them understand how current fashion influences hairstyle design.

In addition to hands-on technical skills, the course includes experience of general salon duties, communication, and customer care all reflecting on real salon environments. There is a strong focus throughout on professional attitudes, teamwork, and customer service, supporting young people to build confidence and workplace readiness.

Structure -

The qualification includes four mandatory units covering salon environment, salon skills, creative trends, and an introduction to colour, preparing learners for further vocational study like SVQs or entry into the industry at starter levels.

Course Components

Skills for Work courses focus on experiential learning, meaning pupils learn through real or simulated workplace experiences. Assessment is ongoing throughout the duration of the course.

Units	
Type of Assessment(s)	Type of Assessment(s)
Working in a Salon Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Practical performance in a realistic salon environment.○ Teacher observation checklists○ Folio of evidence○ Employability skills review
Salon Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Practical tasks such as shampooing, conditioning, drying and basic finishing○ Review of employability skills
Introduction to Colouring Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Combination of open book written/folio work covering colour theory and safety○ Employability skills review.
Creative Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Creation of a style board reflecting current trends○ Planning and carrying out a trend-led hairstyle (on a training head).○ Review of employability skills



Hairdressing - National 5

Course Assessment Information

Assessment in the Skills for Work Hairdressing National 5 course is practical, ongoing and designed to reflect real salon working conditions. Learners are assessed through a combination of practical tasks, observational checklists, short written or oral questions, and portfolio evidence.

Key areas assessed include client consultation, shampooing and conditioning, basic styling techniques, health and safety, hygiene, communication, teamwork and employability skills. Evidence is gathered throughout the course during class activities and simulated salon sessions, allowing learners multiple opportunities to demonstrate competence.

There is no final external exam; instead, in school assessments are carried out by the teacher and quality assured by Qualifications Scotland. Young people are awarded either a Pass or Fail in this subject area.

Feedback is provided regularly to help learners improve their performance and understanding. Reasonable adjustments and support strategies may be applied where appropriate to ensure all learners can achieve their full potential within the course framework.

Progression Pathway

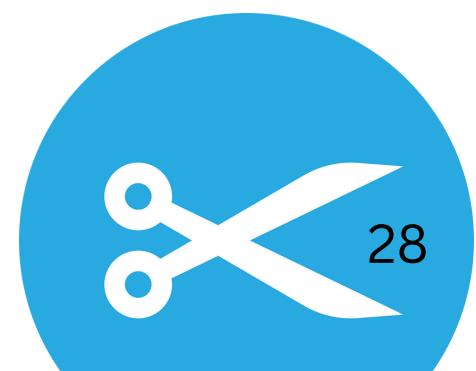
Qualifications

The Skills for Work Hairdressing National 5 course provides learners with a strong foundation for progression. On successful completion, learners may progress to National Certificate (NC) or National Progression Award (NPA) courses in Hairdressing or Beauty Therapy at college, including SCQF Level 6 programmes.

Careers/Skills

The qualification also supports entry into Modern Apprenticeships in Hairdressing, allowing learners to gain paid employment while working towards industry-recognised qualifications such as SVQs. The practical, employability and communication skills developed throughout the course are highly valued by employers, enabling learners to pursue roles such as salon assistant, trainee stylist, or receptionist within the hair and beauty industry.

Lastly, the soft skills gained from the course are transferable to many other courses and employment pathways post school.





History - National 5

Course Content/Structure

This National 5 course develops knowledge, understanding and historical enquiry skills across three contexts.

Historical Study: Scottish – The Era of the Great War, 1900–1928: The Western Front the domestic impact on society, economy and politics and post war change including the decline of heavy industry and the rise of new industries.

Historical Study: British – Changing Britain, 1760–1900: population growth, health and housing; industry; transport; and pressure for democratic reform, the 1832 Reform Act, the Chartist.

Historical Study: European & World – USA, 1850–1880: westward expansion and its drivers and challenges of settlement; relations with Native Americans, slavery and the Civil War – causes and Reconstruction, the Freedmen's Bureau and Southern resistance.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	80%	Qualifications Scotland external exam	80	2 hours 20 minutes
Assignment	20%	Externally marked assignment	20	1 hour

Course Assessment Information

National 5 History – Assessment

Question Paper: External exam, 2 h 20 m, 80 marks (80%). Samples knowledge and understanding across three contexts and assesses six knowledge and enquiry skills:

Describe (4), Explain reasons (6), How fully (6), Evaluate usefulness (5), Compare views (4), and a 9-mark extended judgement (How important/How successful/To what extent).

Assignment: Externally marked write-up under controlled conditions (1 hour), 20 marks (20%). Candidates research a chosen issue in advance and may use a single-sided resource sheet in the write-up.

Grading & materials: Grades A–D are awarded on total marks; no award is given where minimum attainment is not met. Qualifications Scotland publishes the course specification, past papers and marking instructions.



History - National 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Progress to Higher History; related Social Subjects at Higher (e.g. Modern Studies, Geography).

Careers/Skills

Develops transferable skills in critical reading, evidence-based writing, research, analysis, evaluation, and communication.

These are valued in pathways such as:

- law
- journalism
- teaching
- heritage
- public services
- business
- the third sector.





Maths - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Mathematics develops skills in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, and problem solving. Learners work with number processes, including fractions, percentages, and scientific notation. The algebra section includes simplifying expressions, solving equations and inequalities, straight-line graphs, and using formulae.

In geometry and measure, pupils study properties of shapes, Pythagoras' theorem, bearings, scale drawings, and area and volume of 2D and 3D objects. Trigonometry covers sine, cosine, tangent, right-angled triangles, and the sine and cosine rules.

The course also includes statistics, such as analysing data sets, constructing graphs, calculating mean, standard deviation, and interpreting statistical results.

Problem-solving skills are developed throughout, with emphasis on showing working clearly and applying methods to unfamiliar situations. The course prepares learners for the final exam and the non-calculator and calculator papers.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1	44%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	40	1hr
Question Paper 2	56%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	50	1hr 30mins

Course Assessment Information

National 5 Mathematics is assessed through two final exam papers. Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) tests numerical skills, algebra, geometry, and problem solving without calculator use. Paper 2 (Calculator) assesses more complex multi-step problems involving algebra, trigonometry, statistics, and applications in real-life contexts.

Both papers require clear working and mathematical reasoning. Questions range from straightforward procedural tasks to extended problems in unfamiliar situations.

Throughout the year, learners complete class assessments, past-paper practice, and teacher-designed tasks to monitor progress. These help develop accuracy, confidence, and exam technique.



Maths - National 5

Progression Pathway

In addition to National 5 Applications of Maths, young people have the opportunity to obtain the National 5 Numeracy Award, which is valued by employers and colleges, and supports progression into: Highers, colleges, apprenticeships, the workplace. It is particularly helpful for pupils who want to demonstrate strong practical mathematical skills.

Qualifications

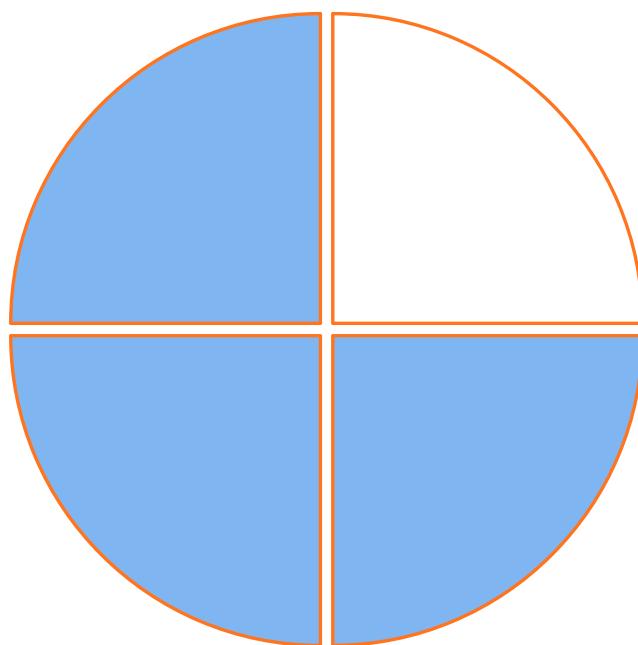
After completing this course, pupils can progress to Higher Mathematics or Higher Applications of Mathematics.

Careers/Skills

Possible career pathways:

- Engineering (civil, mechanical, electrical)
- Science and laboratory work
- Teaching (primary or secondary)
- Nursing and midwifery
- Accounting and finance
- Architecture and surveying
- IT and computing
- Apprenticeships in STEM fields

National 5 Maths shows employers you can problem-solve, work accurately, and handle numbers—skills valued in almost every job.





Modern Studies - National 5

Course Content/Structure

In Modern Studies pupils learn about some of the key social, political and economic issues affecting people living in the UK, and globally, today. During their studies pupils will also develop their skills to use a variety of sources of information to make informed decisions, reach accurate conclusions and identify evidence to both support and oppose points of view.

The topics covered are listed below:

- Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom – in this unit pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of the role elected representatives and individuals play in our democracy. This unit will focus on democracy within the U.K. and will explore issues such as the work of MPs, elections and the role of pressure groups and the media in the UKs democracy
- Social Issues in the United Kingdom - in this unit pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of a key social issue affecting the U.K. today. This unit will focus on inequality in the U.K. and will explore issues such as the causes and effects of inequality as well as responses by the public, private and voluntary sector in tackling inequality
- International Issues (World Issue) - in this unit pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of an international issue affecting the world today. This unit will focus on development issues in Africa and will explore topics such as the causes and effects of underdevelopment in Sub Saharan Africa as well as responses, and their effectiveness, in tackling development issues in this region.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	80%	Qualifications Scotland exam	80	2 hours 20 minutes
Assignment	20%	Qualifications Scotland coursework – candidates research a Modern Studies topic of their choice, in and out with class, and complete a written report under exam conditions	20	1 hour (to write up report)



Modern Studies - National 5

Course Assessment Information

Question paper:

- 3 sections (one section assessing each unit covered: Democracy, Social and International)
- Each section will have a variety of knowledge and understanding (KU) questions assessing candidate KU of relevant areas of each unit. KU questions will be a combination of 4, 6 and 8 mark questions. In total, 50 out of the 80 marks in the question paper will be awarded from these type of questions.
- Each section will also have a skills question. Candidate use a specific skill to interpret evidence from a variety of sources, such as graphs, tables and text. The skills assessed are, the ability to reach and justify a decision, reach and explain an accurate conclusion and providing evidence to both support and oppose a point of view. In total, 30 out of the 80 marks in the question paper will be awarded from these type of questions.

Assignment:

- Candidates will choose an issue related to Modern Studies to research. They will use a variety of sources, including a survey, to conduct their research of this issue. Candidates will complete a report about their research, under exam conditions. The report will be sent to Qualifications Scotland for marking. The assignment is worth 20 marks.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After successfully completing National 5 Modern Studies, pupils can progress to achieving a Higher qualification in this subject.

Careers/Skills

Modern Studies opens pathways into a huge range of careers—especially in public service, law, media, international work, and business, such as: politician, civil servant, policy adviser, political researcher, local government officer, lawyer, criminologist, journalist, charity worker, police officer, health worker, teaching, community worker.

- Analyse complex issues
- Interpret statistics, graphs and data
- Evaluate sources for bias and reliability
- Compare viewpoints and policies
- Draw balanced conclusions
- Discussion and debate
- Public speaking
- Persuasive writing
- Presenting arguments clearly
- Listening and responding respectfully

- Independent investigation
- Using primary and secondary sources
- Fact-checking
- Referencing evidence
- Summarising complex ideas
- Group tasks and negotiations
- Role-plays and simulations
- Time management
- Organisation
- Digital literacy
- Problem-solving





Music - National 5

Course Content/Structure

This course develops performing, composing and listening skills through a practical and creative course. Pupils study a wide range of musical styles while developing confidence and accuracy on two instruments / one instrument and voice. The course follows Qualifications Scotland National 5 Music guidelines, focussing on understanding musical concepts, using musical literacy and applying creative skills in composition.

Pupils will explore:

- Performing on two instruments / one instrument and voice, building technique, expression and control.
- Understanding Music, including key concepts, definitions, literacy, and recognising features within musical excerpts.
- Composing, creating their own piece of music with support and developing ideas using musical devices.

This course suits pupils who enjoy practical music-making, creativity, and listening to a range of genres. It provides a strong foundation for future study at Higher Music and beyond.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Performing	50%	Practical Exam	60	8 minutes
Question Paper	35%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	40	45 minutes
Composition Assignment	15%	Assignment (During class time)	30	On going

Course Assessment Information

National 5 Music is assessed through three components.

Performing requires pupils to prepare 8 minutes of music across two instruments or one instrument and voice, with a minimum or two contrasting pieces on each. Performances are assessed on melodic and rhythmic accuracy, fluency, technique and musical expression.

The Understanding Music question paper assesses pupils' ability to identify musical concepts through listening, understanding definitions, reading notation and recognising features of music across different styles.

The Composition Assignment requires pupils to create an original piece of music. Pupils will plan, develop, and refine ideas, demonstrating use of music concepts and creativity.



Facta Non Verba

Music - National 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing this course, pupils can progress to Higher Music, which further develops performing, musical literacy, analysis, and composition skills. Beyond this, pupils may continue to Advanced Higher Music or pursue related subjects such as Music Technology.

National 5 Music also opens a variety of college pathways, such as Sound Production, Music Performance, Music Technology, and Creative Industries courses.

National 5 Music also supports progression to wider creative subjects such as Drama and Media.

Careers/Skills

Studying National 5 Music develops confidence, creativity, communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience. Skills gained are highly transferable into other courses and real life.

Possible Careers:

- Performing
- Music Therapy
- Music Journalism
- Event Management
- Sound Technology
- Composing
- DJing
- Music Recording
- Music Production
- Music Publishing
- Teaching
- Conducting
- Audio Engineering
- Sound Operations
- Artist Management
- Community Arts Music





Physical Education - National 5

Course Content/Structure

The focus will be performance development within a range of activities where pupils will develop:

- A broad range of movement and performance skills
- The ability to select, use, demonstrate and adapt these skills
- Consistency in their control and fluency during movement
- An understanding of the impact of mental, emotional, social and physical factors on their own performance
- Plan for, record, monitor and evaluate performance development

Pupils will have an option to study PE through an Aesthetics or a Games pathway. Pupils who choose to follow the Aesthetics pathway will be taught through a combination of Gymnastics, Trampolining and Dance. Pupils who choose to follow a Games pathway will be taught through 4 activities from a combination of Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Tennis and Badminton. Both options will have an element of Fitness within the course.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
2 x Live Performances	50%	Practical Assessment	60	Reflects the activity
Portfolio	50%	Written	60	Ongoing - during class time

Course Assessment Information

The focus will be on challenge, requiring greater depth of knowledge, and application in practical and theoretical contexts. Pupils will be assessed through a combination of two performances and a portfolio, which will be graded A-D.

Portfolio

The portfolio (60 marks) will be generated by the pupil with support and guidance from the teacher and will contribute to 50% of the overall course grade.

Practical Assessment

Pupils will be assessed in 2 activities of their choice (30 marks for each activity) and this will contribute to 50% of the overall course grade. The assessment will be a one-off performance within a challenging context.



Physical Education - National 5

Progression Pathway

School and College Courses

Pupils can progress to Higher PE or the following course at college:

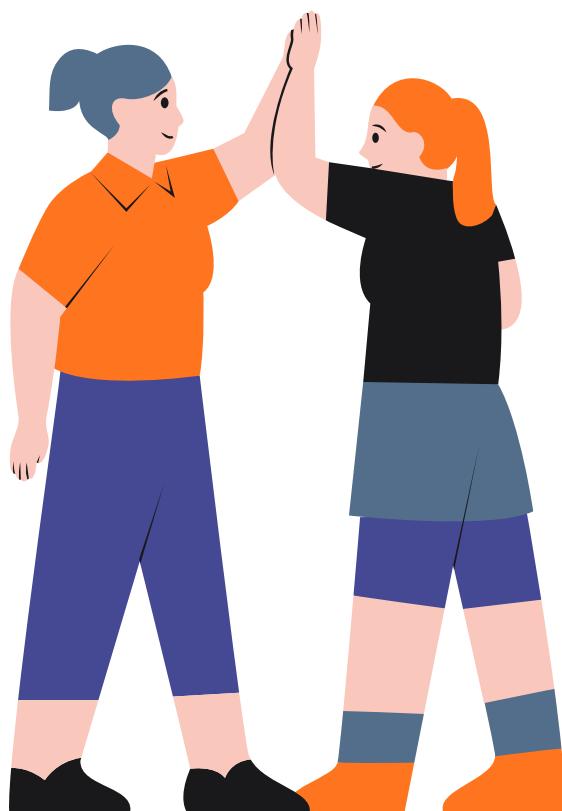
- Refereeing - SCQF Level 7
- NQ Level 5 Sport & Fitness – West Lothian College
- Advanced (SCQF Level 5/6) Sport Coaching, Fitness & Exercise – North East Scotland College (NESCol) [nescol.ac.uk]
- Sport & Fitness Courses (SCQF 4–6) – Glasgow Clyde College
- (including Sports Coaching, Fitness, Health & Exercise, Football Coaching pathways) [glasgowclyde.ac.uk]
- Progression to Higher PE in school before moving to college (common route toward HNC/HND in Sport subjects)

Employment and Volunteering

- Community sport coach with local clubs
- Community sports development
- Gym or fitness centre instructor

Wider Career Pathways

- Youth work and childcare roles
- Uniformed and public services (Armed Forces, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
- Outdoor education instructor





Physics - National 5

Course Content/Structure

Physics helps you understand how the world works – from how objects move, to how electricity powers your home, to how the universe began. Through a variety of practical investigations and calculations, you will discover relationships and apply them to solve problems.

The course is split into six main topic areas.

- In the Dynamics unit, you will learn about movement and forces. This includes speed, acceleration, Newton's laws, energy and projectiles.
- The Space unit includes learning about how the universe began, space exploration and satellites.
- In Electricity you will learn about current, voltage and circuits. You will also investigate ohm's law and electrical power.
- Properties of Matter involves the study of heat and particles. There is a focus on gas behaviour and the relationship between pressure, temperature and volume.
- The Waves section of the course looks at the properties and behaviour of different types of waves including the sound waves and those in the electromagnetic spectrum.
- The Radiation unit explores the differences between types of radiation and how they can be used in medicine and industry.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	80%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	135	2 hours 30 minutes
Assignment	20%	Written report	20	8 hours - during class time



Physics - National 5

Course Assessment Information

Regular assessment takes place throughout the course to gauge progress and identify areas for improvement. They are designed to reflect the skills assessed in Qualifications Scotland exams.

These skills are assessed throughout the course:

- Apply physics knowledge to new situations
- Plan, design, and safely carry out experiments
- Select relevant information from various sources
- Present information in tables, graphs, and written form
- Process data (calculations, units, interpreting graphs)
- Solve problems and make evidence-based predictions
- Draw valid conclusions with explanations
- Suggest experimental improvements
- Communicate findings clearly

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing National 4 Physics, pupils can progress to National 5 Physics. Upon completion of National 5 Physics, pupils can progress to Higher Physics.

Careers/Skills

Physics is a valuable qualification which can lead to employment or further study in several areas. In addition to traditional fields such as trade apprenticeships, finance and engineering, the problem-solving skills developed in the course are beneficial to those pursuing careers in renewable energy, robotics, space and medical physics.





Practical Cookery - National 5

Course Content/Structure

This course helps pupils develop important life skills by building confidence and independence in the kitchen. It is designed to prepare young people for everyday life by teaching them how to plan, prepare, and cook meals safely for themselves and others.

Pupils will learn a range of practical cooking skills, including food preparation techniques and cookery processes, while following recipes accurately. They will develop the ability to select suitable ingredients, prepare and present dishes, and add simple garnishes or decorations. Alongside practical work, pupils will gain an understanding of nutrition, current dietary advice, and the sustainability of ingredients, helping them make informed food choices.

A strong emphasis is placed on kitchen safety and hygiene, as well as organisation and time management—skills that are valuable both in school and in everyday life. Learning takes place mainly through hands-on practical activities, supported by theory lessons that link directly to cooking tasks.

The course uses real-life cooking context, making learning relevant and engaging. It also supports wider learning by developing teamwork, responsibility, and awareness of sustainable food choices, while offering clear progression pathways into further education and employment.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	25%	Qualifications Scotland exam	30	1hour
Assignment	13%	In class assessment	18	1 hour 45mins
Practical Activity/exam	62%	practical	82	2hours





Practical Cookery - National 5

Course Assessment Information

The course assessment meets the key purposes and aims of the course by addressing:

- breadth – drawing on knowledge and skills from across the course.
- challenge – requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills.
- application – requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate.

This allows pupils to:

- integrate and apply knowledge, understanding and skills from across the course.
- apply the knowledge, understanding and skills from across the course through a practical approach.

Pupils are assessed using a combination of a written question paper, a practical cooking activity, and an assignment. These assessments allow pupils to show their knowledge, understanding, and practical skills by applying what they have learned throughout the course in a range of tasks. Together, they help pupils demonstrate their progress and achievement across both theory and practical work.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Progression within School

- *Please note that no Higher is available in this subject area
- National 5 Practical Cake Craft

Further Education & Training

- College courses in Professional Cookery, Hospitality, or Bakery
- Apprenticeships in Catering and Hospitality

Careers/Skills

National 5 Practical Cookery provides a strong foundation for a wide range of food, hospitality, and customer service careers, as well as useful life and employability skills.

Hospitality & Catering

- Chef / Commis Chef
- Cook or Kitchen Assistant
- Baker or Pastry Chef
- Catering Assistant
- Restaurant or Café Staff
- Hotel Catering Roles

Food & Drink Industry

- Food Production Operative
- Food Preparation Technician
- Quality Control Assistant
- Food Retail and Supermarket Roles

Health, Nutrition & Care

- Care or Support Worker (food preparation focus)
- Nursery or School Catering Assistant
- Community or Care Home Catering
- Progression towards Nutrition or Food Science (with further study)

Transferable Skills for Any Career:

- Organisation and time management
- Teamwork and communication
- Working safely and hygienically
- Independence and responsibility



Practical Woodworking - National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Practical Woodworking is a hands-on, workshop-based course that develops practical skills in the manufacture of wooden products. The course focuses on safe working practices, accuracy, and quality craftsmanship, while building confidence in using tools, equipment and materials.

The course is structured around three key areas of study. In Flat-Frame Construction, learners develop skills in producing joints and assemblies commonly used in framed products. In Carcase Construction, learners manufacture box-type structures using a range of joints and fixings, interpreting working drawings and cutting lists. In Machining and Finishing, learners use machine and power tools and apply surface preparation and finishing techniques to a high standard.

Across all areas, learners develop skills in measuring, marking out, cutting, shaping, assembling and finishing, alongside an understanding of sustainability and recycling within a workshop environment.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Practical Activity	100%	In class practical activity	80	As required

Course Assessment Information

Assessment for National 5 Practical Woodworking focuses entirely on practical performance. It is designed to assess:

- Breadth – skills drawn from across all areas of the course
- Challenge – applying skills accurately to products with some complex features
- Application – using knowledge and skills in realistic workshop contexts
-

Assessment consists of one practical activity, worth 100% of the course award. Learners complete a case study, manufacture a finished wooden product to a given specification, and maintain a log book evidencing safe working practices and processes.

Marks are awarded for accuracy, quality of manufacture, use of tools and equipment, finishing, and adherence to health and safety. Assessment is internally marked and quality assured by Qualifications Scotland.



Practical Woodworking - National 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing National 5 Practical Woodworking, learners can progress to related subjects such as Higher Design and Manufacture, National 5 Practical Metalworking or other practical Technologies courses.

College pathways include:

- Joinery
- Furniture Making
- Construction Crafts
- Carpentry and Wood Machining

Careers/Skills

Possible careers include:

Joiner, Carpenter, Cabinet Maker, Furniture Maker, Wood Machinist, Construction Operative, and related craft and trade roles.

Skills developed include:

- Practical problem-solving
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Safe use of tools and machinery
- Planning and organisation
- Teamwork and independence

These skills are highly valued in construction, manufacturing and craft-based industries.





Spanish - National 5

Course Content/Structure

The National 5 Spanish course develops learners' ability to understand and use Spanish in both familiar and learned contexts. Students build competence in the four key language skills: reading, listening, talking and writing. The course focuses on practical communication and cultural awareness, enabling learners to use Spanish confidently in real-life situations.

Learners explore topics across society, learning, employability and culture. These include family and relationships, lifestyle, school and future plans, work and job applications, holidays, traditions and aspects of life in Spanish-speaking countries. Grammar is taught progressively, covering key structures such as verb tenses, opinions, connectives, and question forms to help learners create more detailed and accurate language.

The course emphasises developing confidence in spoken communication through pair work, role-play, and short presentations. Listening and reading tasks encourage learners to understand a variety of texts, while writing tasks focus on personal responses, descriptions and structured paragraphs.

By the end of the course, students can communicate their ideas clearly, understand a range of Spanish texts, and demonstrate an appreciation of Hispanic cultures.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper 1 - reading	25%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	30	1 hour 30 mins
Question paper 1 - writing	12.5%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	20	
Question paper 2 - listening	25%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	20	30 mins
Assignment-writing	12.5%	Writing Assignment - in class	20	As required
Performance-talking	25%	Talking Performance - in class	30	6-8 mins



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Course Assessment Information

National 5 Spanish is assessed through five components worth 120 marks.

Learners sit three question papers:

Reading (30 marks), Writing (20 marks) and Listening (20 marks), which assess understanding and application of detailed language across the contexts of society, learning, employability and culture.

Learners also complete a Writing Assignment (20 marks), where they produce a piece of extended writing based on set contexts, demonstrating accuracy, content and appropriate language use. Finally, candidates undertake a Performance – Talking assessment (30 marks), where they present and sustain a conversation in Spanish, showing detailed language, clarity and interaction skills.

These assessments test learners' ability to understand spoken and written Spanish, communicate clearly, apply grammar accurately, and express ideas confidently in real-life contexts.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing the National 5 course with a pass at grades A to D, pupils can progress to Higher Spanish.

Careers/Skills

Spanish is useful for both business and travel. Around 400 million people worldwide speak Spanish. Spain is a popular holiday destination for British people. And, Spain is also an important trading partner of the UK. Many companies need employees who are fluent in one or more European languages. So, learning Spanish gives you many options for your future career. The skills you develop in Spanish are useful in many different career areas such as travel and tourism, languages, teaching and in trade and industry.

Career Pathways

There are many different career areas this subject could lead to as Spanish is spoken all over the world.

- Arts, Social Sciences and Languages
- Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism
- Information, Culture and Heritage
- Teaching and Classroom Support
- Transport and Distribution
- Uniformed and Security Services

