



CALDERHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Calderhead High School

Senior Pathways



Introduction

This booklet provides an overview of the option choices available and you should take plenty of time and care 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 including:

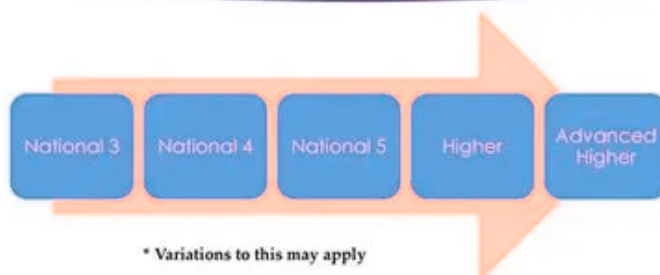
- Curricular Pathways Information Evening
- Discussions around curricular pathways through PSHE
- A meeting with your Pupil Support Teacher to discuss your proposed pathway choices
- Information sharing through Year Group assemblies
- A list of useful websites can be found below to allow young people 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.

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				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 National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher and SCQF Levels 5-7 levels of each particular subject area.

National 3 and National 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 5 is at SCQF Level 5, making N5 more academically demanding than SCQF levels 4 and below courses. Qualifications Scotland confirms that National 5 courses have a lower level of challenge compared with Higher (National 6)

No External Exam

National 3 and National 4 courses are internally assessed, while most National 5 to Advanced Higher 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

National 5 qualifications act as stepping-stone to SCQF 6 and beyond 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 S4 or S5, they enter a crucial stage in their learning journey: selecting their Senior Phase Pathways for the next academic year. This process supports young people to make informed decisions about their SQA qualification levels, future ambitions, and next steps beyond school.

The Senior Phase Pathways stage is not about making final career decisions but young people should be thinking about the qualifications they will help them achieve their goals as they transition from Calderhead High School into further/higher education or the world of work. It helps young people build on their strengths, focus on meaningful progression, and take greater ownership of their learning. Subjects chosen for S5 and S6 should support pupils to achieve National Qualifications at the level most appropriate to them, whether National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher, or Advanced Higher.

Pathway Options Procedures

S4 into S5 - Pupils best 5 progress grades from S4 will be identified from our school tracking system and these will be used to pre-populate subject options into individual option forms. Tracking is based on a standardised cycle of assessments and moderation which ensure accurate, valid and reliable information is being used.

S5 into S6 - Along with pupils progress grades from S5, we will also use S4 Qualification Scotland exam results and this will help us to pre-populate subject options into individual option forms. Again, tracking is based on a standardised cycle of assessments and moderation which ensure accurate, valid and reliable information is being used.

Pupil Input Sessions – Pathways Process

During allocated class time, staff will guide pupils through the pathways form, explaining course options, qualification levels and how best to complete a draft choices form. These draft forms help the school understand demand for subjects and begin planning the timetable structure for the coming session. Pupils will select one subject from each column. A subject can only be chosen once.

Draft Form Analysis

School staff will review each pupil's draft choices against subject specialist predictions. This analysis allows us to create a realistic and personalised Senior Phase pathway for your child, maximising their opportunity to achieve the highest possible attainment across their chosen subjects in S5 or S6.

Curricular Pathways Information Evening

The Pathways Evening will provide:

- An explanation of how Senior Phase pathways operate
- Insight into how subjects progress to National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher qualifications, further/higher education and longer-term career opportunities.
- Guidance on how course choices influence future routes such as college, apprenticeships, university and careers
- Access to subject specialists who can explain course content, assessment, skills and progression
- Support from pastoral and learning staff to discuss individual needs and aspirations

The aim is to reassure families, answer questions, and support young people to make confident, informed decisions.

Pupil Interviews

School staff will meet individually with pupils to discuss their draft choices and finalise a recommended pathway. A pre-populated final form will then be issued for parents/carers to review and sign.

Any changes can be made after discussion with the pupil and parent/carer to ensure that the final pathway reflects both aspiration and realistic progression.

Administration & IT – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher Administration & IT develops advanced administrative and digital skills required in supervisory and senior office roles. The course combines in-depth administration theory with extensive use of advanced IT applications, preparing learners for further study or employment in modern workplaces.

The course is structured around two integrated areas of study. Administrative Theory and Practice focuses on effective workplace organisation, including time and task management, effective teams, customer care, workplace legislation, security of information, and the impact of digital technology on working practices. IT Applications develops advanced skills in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations and electronic communication, allowing learners to organise, analyse and communicate complex information accurately and professionally.

Throughout the course, learners complete realistic administrative tasks, support meetings and events, and use digital technologies to solve problems and manage information securely and efficiently.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	42%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	50	1 hour 30 minutes
Assignment	58%	In Class Assignment	70	2 hours

Course Assessment Information

Assessment for Higher Administration & IT is designed to assess learners' ability to apply advanced administrative knowledge and IT skills in unfamiliar and demanding contexts.

It focuses on:

- Breadth – drawing on knowledge and skills from across theory and IT applications
- Challenge – using advanced digital skills and judgement
- Application – completing integrated administrative and IT tasks

Assessment consists of two components. The question paper (50 marks) assesses understanding of administrative theory, problem-solving and decision-making using stimulus material. The assignment (70 marks) requires learners to complete a series of practical IT and communication tasks using word processing, spreadsheets, databases and digital communication tools.

Assessment is set and marked by Scottish Qualifications Authority. Successful completion also gives automatic certification of Core Skill ICT at SCQF level 6.

Administration & IT – Higher

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing Higher Administration & IT, learners can progress to Advanced Higher Business-related subjects or a wide range of college and university courses in administration, business management, human resources, finance and information systems.

Careers/Skills

Possible careers include:

Senior Administrative Assistant, Office Manager, Business Support Officer, HR Administrator, Executive Assistant, and supervisory roles across public and private sectors.

Skills developed include:

- Advanced digital literacy and data handling
- Organisation, leadership and time management
- Problem-solving in complex workplace contexts
- Professional communication and presentation
- Understanding of legislation, customer care and information security

These transferable skills are highly valued by employers across all sectors.



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 – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher Applications of Mathematics focuses on real-life problem-solving and mathematical reasoning used in finance, statistics, modelling and planning with decision making. Learners develop advanced numeracy and financial skills, including tax, National Insurance, interest, loans, investments, budgeting, and financial planning.

In statistics, pupils study data analysis, standard deviation, correlation, regression, probability, and risk. They learn to interpret information and make decisions based on real data sets.

The mathematical modelling section includes graphs and modelling real situations such as resource allocation, and scheduling. Learners apply reasoning to select appropriate methods and explain solutions clearly.

The course consistently focuses on meaningful contexts—such as business, health, social studies, and the workplace—encouraging confident decision-making and critical thinking.

Higher Applications of Mathematics prepares students for further study, employment, apprenticeships, and careers where practical mathematical skills and analytical thinking are required.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	68%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	65	2hr 5mins
Assignment	32%	Project	30	8hr

Course Assessment Information

Higher Applications of Mathematics is assessed through a combination of a question paper and an assignment. The question paper examines skills in applying mathematics to real-life contexts, including finance and statistics. It assesses problem-solving, interpretation of information, and the use of mathematical models.

The assignment allows learners to research real-world data, apply appropriate statistical techniques, and communicate findings clearly. It assesses planning, mathematical processing, and evaluation of results.

Marks from the question paper and assignment are combined to give the final course award. Assessment emphasises accuracy, reasoning, and the ability to apply mathematics effectively in practical situations.



Applications of Maths – Higher

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

This qualification is strong preparation for college, university, or apprenticeships, especially in STEM, business, and social science fields where applied mathematical skills are essential.

Careers/Skills

Higher Applications of Mathematics develops practical and problem-solving skills that are valued across many career pathways. Possible careers include:

- Business and Finance – accountant, banking assistant, financial adviser, insurance technician
- Technology and Data – data analyst trainee, IT support, software or systems technician
- Engineering and Construction – engineering technician, manufacturing technician, quantity surveyor
- Science and Healthcare – laboratory technician, medical data assistant, pharmacy technician
- Statistics and Research – market researcher, statistics assistant, research technician
- Public Services – logistics planner, police analyst, military technical roles
- Education and Training – teaching assistant, further study towards teaching or lecturing

Higher 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.



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 – Higher

Course Content/Structure

The Higher 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	23%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	60	2 hours
Expressive Portfolio	38.50%	Portfolio	100	On going - during class time
Design Portfolio	38.50%	Portfolio	100	On going - during class time





Art & Design – Higher

Course Assessment Information

Higher 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 Advanced Higher Art and Design, which further develops skills in using a range of art and design materials and techniques creatively.

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

Careers/Skills

Studying Higher 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

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

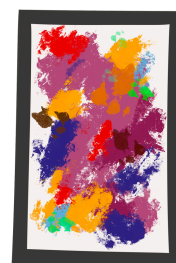
This part of the course helps pupils plan, research and develop creative expressive work in response to a theme. Pupils develop knowledge and understanding of artists' working practices and the social, cultural and other influences affecting their work and practice. Pupils select a theme and produce 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
Design Portfolio	40%	Portfolio	100	On going





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

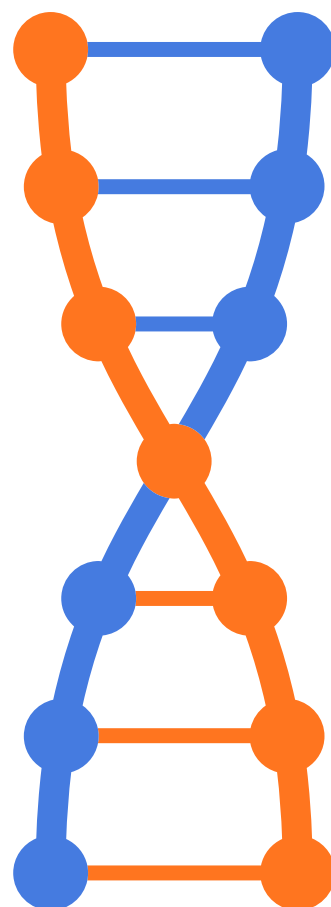
- How organisms produce new cells
- Control and communication in organisms (nervous and hormonal systems)
- Reproduction in plants and animals
- Variation and genetic inheritance

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 at the end of the unit during class time.

In addition to class assessments, S5 and S6 students will undertake a prelim exam.

All assessments are of Qualifications Scotland standard and are based on previous past paper questions. They include multiple choice and extended response questions covering the following:

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

In addition to the above students undertaking National 5 will complete an externally assessed Assignment Report.

Homework

Students will be expected to complete regular homework tasks. In addition, students must commit to regularly revising their notes to ensure that all new material is learned and understood.

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 – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher Business Management develops a detailed understanding of how large organisations operate in a complex, competitive and global environment. The course focuses on strategic decision-making, analysis of business information and evaluation of organisational performance.

The course is structured around five integrated areas of study. In Understanding Business, learners examine how organisations operate in the private, public and third sectors, analysing internal and external influences, stakeholders, organisational structures and decision-making. Management of Marketing explores advanced marketing theory, consumer behaviour, market research and the extended marketing mix. Management of Operations focuses on production methods, inventory management, quality systems and ethical and environmental considerations. Management of People examines workforce planning, leadership, motivation, employee relations and employment legislation. Management of Finance develops skills in interpreting financial information, including cash budgets, financial statements and ratio analysis.

Across all areas, learners develop high-level analytical, evaluative 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 45 minutes
Assignment	25%	In Class Assignment	30	8 hours

Course Assessment Information

Assessment for Higher Business Management focuses on learners' ability to apply, analyse and evaluate business knowledge in unfamiliar and demanding contexts. It emphasises:

- Breadth – drawing on knowledge from all five areas of study
- Challenge – analysing complex business situations and making justified judgements
- Application – applying theory to real and realistic business contexts

Assessment consists of two components. The question paper (75%) assesses analysis, evaluation and decision-making using case-study stimulus material. The assignment (25%) requires learners to research a business issue, apply relevant theory, analyse evidence and produce a structured business report with justified conclusions or recommendations.

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

Business Management – Higher

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing Higher Business Management, learners can progress to Advanced Higher Business Management or related subjects such as Administration & IT or other social subjects.

The course supports progression to college and university courses in business, management, finance, marketing and economics.

Careers/Skills

Possible careers include:

Business Manager, Marketing Executive, HR Officer, Financial Analyst, Operations Manager, Entrepreneur, and roles across the public and private sectors.

Skills developed include:

- Strategic thinking and decision-making
- Analysis and evaluation of complex information
- Financial awareness and data interpretation
- Communication and report-writing
- Enterprise and leadership skills

These skills are highly valued across higher education and professional business pathways.



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 – Higher

Course Content/Structure

The purpose of the Higher Chemistry Course is to develop learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for chemistry in a range of contexts. The skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are developed throughout the Course. The relevance of chemistry is highlighted by the study of the applications of chemistry in everyday contexts. This will enable learners to become scientifically literate citizens, able to review the science-based claims they will meet.

There are 3 units

Chemical Changes and Structure

- controlling reaction rates and collision theory
- the use of catalysts in reactions
- periodic trends
- electro-negativity and intra-molecular and intermolecular forces.

Nature's Chemistry

- organic chemistry within the context of the chemistry of food
- the chemistry of everyday consumer products, soaps, detergents, fragrances and skincare.

Chemistry in Society

- calculating quantities of reagents and products
- percentage yield and the atom economy of processes.
- Chemical Equilibrium
- Energy in Chemical reactions
- Electrochemistry
- Analytical Chemistry

There is also a Researching Chemistry unit where students investigate the relevance of chemical theory to everyday life by exploring the chemistry behind a topical issue. Equipped with the knowledge of common chemistry apparatus and techniques, they will plan and undertake a practical investigation, which contributes to their final grade.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Higher Question paper 1	80%	Qualifications Scotland Exam Multiple Choice	25	40 minutes
Higher Question paper 2		Qualifications Scotland Exam Extended response	95	2 hours 30 minutes
Assignment	20%	Assignment Report (class time & exam)	20 (scaled to 30)	8 hours plus 2 hours for final report



Chemistry – Higher

Course Assessment Information

Throughout the course, there are class assessments in each unit, covering several topics. Students will sit a prelim which will give an indication of potential performance in the final exam, and if time permits, a second prelim may be offered to monitor progression.

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.

Homework exercises based on past paper questions are issued during each topic to allow students to experience the way marks are allocated for answers and allow them to practice their skills in responding to tasks.

All assessments and homeworks are marked to Qualifications Scotland standard to ensure students are aware of the requirements of the Higher course.

Higher Chemistry is one of the most demanding Highers, and for this reason we do not recommend 'crashing' the subject.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Students who achieve a good pass in Higher Chemistry can go on and study Advanced Higher Chemistry in S6, although this is usually offered via the Consortium.

There are many University courses in Chemistry, including:

- 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



In addition, many other courses such as in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacology and Veterinary Studies require applicants to have a pass in Higher Chemistry.

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.

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

Natures 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 a prelim exam which examines everything learned.

- 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.



Community Sports Leadership Award (CSLA) - SCQF Level 5

Course Content/Structure

CSLA is a practical and engaging qualification designed for pupils who have an interest in sport, leadership and working with others. This course helps young people develop the skills, behaviours and confidence required to lead and support others in a sporting environment.

Throughout the course, pupils will learn about the key skills and behaviours of an effective sports leader, including communication, self belief, self management, teamwork and problem solving. They will gain a strong understanding of how to plan, deliver and evaluate sporting activities safely and effectively for different groups.

As part of the award, pupils will:

- Plan, organise and evaluate a whole-school sporting event, taking on leadership roles and responsibilities
- Plan and deliver sports sessions at cluster primary schools, working with younger pupils in a supportive and structured environment
- Build confidence in leading individuals and groups in a range of sporting contexts
- Complete 5 voluntary hours at a sports club where they will take on a leadership role

This course is particularly suitable for pupils who enjoy practical learning and are considering future pathways in sport, fitness, coaching, teaching, youth work or community-based careers. The leadership skills developed are also highly valued by colleges, universities and employers.

Course Components

Unit Name	Type of Assessment(s)
<u>Unit 1</u> - Building leadership skills	Written tasks in booklet
<u>Unit 2</u> - Plan, lead and evaluate sports/ physical activity sessions	Two sessions must be planned, lead to others and evaluated ensuring that you meet the criteria set.
<u>Unit 3</u> - Assist in planning and leading a sports/ physical activity event	Work as part of a group to plan, lead and evaluate either the School Ceilidh or the P7 Ceilidh
<u>Unit 4</u> - Lead activities which promote a healthy lifestyle	A fitness session must be planned, lead to others and evaluated ensuring you meet the criteria set.
<u>Unit 5</u> - Lead sports/ physical activities in your community	You must complete 5 voluntary hours where you take on a leadership role within a sports club either at lunchtime or after school.

Community Sports Leadership Award (CSLA) - SCQF Level 5

Course Assessment Information

CSLA is assessed through a combination of written and practical leadership tasks which are ongoing unit coursework rather than a final exam. The course is internally assessed and quality assured, with all evidence gathered in a pupil booklet. Successful completion of the course requires all 5 units to be passed.

Progression Pathway

CSLA Level 5 supports progression to a range of further learning, training and career opportunities, including:

- **School & College Courses**
 - NPA Sport & Fitness (SCQF Level 5/6)
 - NPA Coaching, Leadership or Sports Development
 - HNC Sport & Fitness
 - HNC Coaching & Developing Sport
- **University Pathways**
 - Sport & Physical Activity
 - Sports Coaching
 - Physical Education Teaching (with appropriate qualifications)
- **Employment & Volunteering**
 - Sports coaching and activity leadership
 - Leisure and fitness industry roles
 - Community sports development
 - Volunteering with clubs, schools and community groups
- **Wider Career Pathways**
 - Youth work and community roles
 - Uniformed services (Police, Armed Forces, Fire & Rescue)
 - Health, fitness and wellbeing careers



Journalism - SCQF Level 6

Course Content/Structure

The National Progression Award in Customer Service at SCQF Level 6 develops the skills and knowledge required to work effectively in customer-facing roles across a wide range of sectors. The course focuses on advanced communication skills, helping learners understand both the theory and practical application of high-quality customer interactions. It explores how organisations identify, meet and exceed customer needs, and how customer service underpins success across industries such as retail, hospitality, travel, sport, beauty, local authorities and the voluntary sector. [

Learners also develop an understanding of how technology and social media are used to support customer service, including engaging with customers online and evaluating the effectiveness of digital interactions. The award includes opportunities to analyse customer service policies, evaluate quality standards and understand how customer feedback shapes organisational improvement.

The structure of the NPA allows centres to deliver units flexibly, and it can be studied as a standalone award or alongside other NPAs or vocational qualifications. By the end of the course, learners gain practical employability skills, technological awareness and a professional approach to delivering customer service in any modern workplace.

Course Components

Unit Name	Type of Assessment(s)
Communication Skills for Customer Service	In class - pen-book, controlled conditions. Short report/assessor's checklist. Observation of learner in different customer care situations in real or simulated practical scenarios
Social Media for Customer Service	In class - Open-book, controlled conditions Research project with findings recorded via blog, wiki, discussion forum or other collaborative software
Customer Service: Product & Service Requirements	Small research project covering qualitative and quantitative customer feedback

Customer Service – SCQF Level 6

Course Assessment Information

Assessment for this award is unit-based and fully internally assessed, with no final exam. Learners complete three mandatory units, each assessed through practical tasks, written evidence and evaluation activities. These units include:

- Communication Skills for Customer Service – demonstrating advanced practical communication and understanding communication theory.
- Social Media for Customer Service – evaluating how organisations use technology and social media to deliver and monitor customer service.
- Customer Service: Product & Service Requirements – analysing products/services, customer needs and the quality of customer service.

Learners produce evidence of their ability to meet customer needs, apply customer service policies, use social media appropriately and evaluate service quality.

Progression Pathway

The NPA provides a strong foundation for further study or employment. Learners can progress to:

Further Education & Qualifications:

- SVQ Customer Service SCQF Level 6 or 7
- (e.g., customer service team leader, customer relations roles)
- NC or NPA qualifications in Business, Admin, Retail or Hospitality
- HNC/HND Business, Administration & IT, Marketing, Retail Management

Employment Pathways

- Customer service skills are needed across all sectors, including:
- Retail
- Hospitality & tourism
- Call centres & contact centres
- Local authority & public services
- Beauty, hairdressing & wellbeing sectors
- Travel & visitor attractions
- Sports centres and leisure facilities

Typical roles include:

- Customer Service Assistant
- Receptionist / Front-of-House
- Social Media Customer Support Assistant
- Retail Sales Advisor
- Hospitality Customer Host
- Call Centre Advisor

Design & Manufacture – Higher

Course Content/Structure

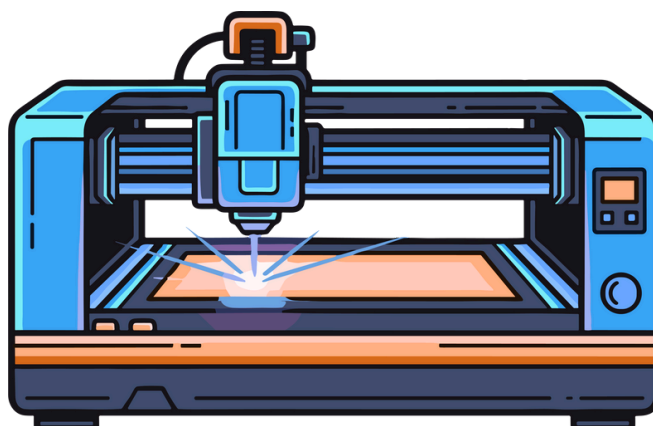
Higher Design and Manufacture builds on National 5 and develops advanced skills in design thinking, problem-solving and manufacturing. Learners take a more analytical and independent approach to the design-and-make process, producing sophisticated and well-justified solutions to complex design briefs.

The course is structured around two integrated areas: Design and Manufacture. In Design, learners analyse briefs in depth, carry out targeted research, and develop detailed specifications. They generate, explore and refine ideas using advanced graphics and modelling techniques, applying knowledge of function, performance, ergonomics, aesthetics and market considerations to justify decisions.

In Manufacture, learners plan and manufacture high-quality prototypes or products. They select appropriate materials, tools and processes, produce accurate working drawings and plans, and apply a high standard of accuracy and finish. Learners also develop a deeper understanding of commercial manufacturing, sustainability and the wider impact of design and manufacturing technologies.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	47%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	80	2 hours and 15 minutes
Assignment	53%	Assignment (During class time)	90	





Design & Manufacture – Higher

Course Assessment Information

Assessment at Higher Design and Manufacture is designed to measure learners' ability to apply knowledge, skills and understanding in demanding and realistic contexts. It focuses on:

- Breadth – drawing on learning from across design and manufacture
- Challenge – responding to complex briefs and tasks requiring justification and evaluation
- Application – applying learning in practical, design and commercial contexts

Learners are assessed through a written question paper and an assignment. The question paper assesses understanding of design principles, materials, manufacturing processes, sustainability and commercial manufacture. The assignment requires learners to analyse a brief, develop and justify a detailed design proposal, and manufacture and evaluate a final solution.

This approach rewards both high-level thinking and practical skill, reflecting the demands of further study and industry. Assessment and certification are provided by Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing Higher Design and Manufacture, learners can progress to Advanced Higher Design and Manufacture or related subjects such as Higher Graphic Communication, Higher Art and Design, or Higher Business Management.

College and university pathways include:

- Product Design
- Engineering (Mechanical / Manufacturing)
- Industrial Design
- Architecture and Built Environment
- Manufacturing and CAD/CAM

Careers/Skills

Possible careers include:

Product Designer, Design Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, CAD Technician, Industrial Designer, Engineering Technician, and roles in advanced manufacturing industries.

Skills developed include:

- Advanced problem-solving and design thinking
- Independent planning and decision-making
- Technical knowledge of materials and processes
- Precision, quality control and evaluation
- Communication and justification of design decisions

These skills are highly valued across engineering, design and manufacturing sectors.

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.

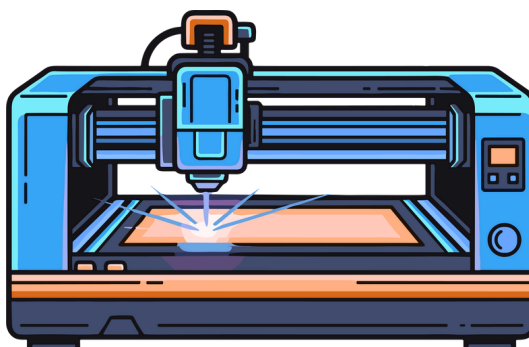
In Manufacture, learners plan and safely manufacture a prototype or product based on their design proposal. This includes selecting appropriate materials, tools and processes, producing working drawings and cutting lists, and applying accurate measuring, cutting, forming, assembling and finishing techniques. 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 – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher Drama develops learners' ability to create, present and analyse drama using a wide range of complex drama and production skills. Students explore drama through responding to stimuli and text, experimenting with form, structure, genre and style as they generate and communicate ideas for performance. They develop acting skills by portraying a variety of characters and investigating how movement, voice and language shape meaning on stage.

Learners also study the historical, social, cultural and theatrical influences that inform drama, gaining a deeper understanding of how context affects creative choices. They extend their knowledge of production roles, such as lighting, sound, set, costume and makeup, applying these skills when preparing and presenting drama.

A key aspect of the course is developing the ability to evaluate their own work and that of others, making informed decisions throughout the creative process. The course encourages independence, collaboration, problem-solving and critical thinking as learners prepare for both performance and written assessments.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	40%	Writing	60	2 hours
Textual Analysis	60%	Performance	60	Varies

Course Assessment Information

Higher Drama has two externally assessed components:

Question Paper – 40%

Completed during the Qualifications Scotland exam diet, the written exam assesses understanding of drama theory and production. Candidates answer extended-response questions on:

- Theatre production: text in context
- Performance analysis
- This paper tests knowledge of text, context, drama terminology, production areas, characterisation, genres and the ability to analyse and evaluate drama.

Performance Examination – 60%

- Assessed in school by an external Qualifications Scotland examiner, this component requires candidates to:
- Perform two scripted acting roles, or present a design concept (set, lighting, sound, costume or makeup).
- Complete a 500-word Preparation for Performance essay, explaining their creative decisions.
- This performance assessment evaluates acting or design skills, character/production interpretation and the ability to communicate effectively to an audience.

Drama – Higher

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Higher Drama supports progression to Advanced Higher Drama, college courses, and higher education, particularly in subjects related to performing arts, theatre, media and creative industries. It also strengthens applications for competitive training programmes and apprenticeships.

Careers/Skills

Higher Drama develops advanced performance, analytical and leadership skills, alongside confidence in communication and collaboration. These skills are valuable in careers such as actor, director, designer, theatre practitioner, drama teacher, arts administrator, media professional, events manager, youth worker and roles in education, communications and creative industries.

- Actor
- Director
- Designer (set, lighting or costume)
- Stage manager
- Drama teacher
- Theatre practitioner
- Arts administrator
- Events manager
- Media presenter
- Community arts worker



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



Early Education & Childcare – National 5

Course Content/Structure

This course introduces learners to the skills, knowledge, and values required to work with young children in early learning and childcare settings. It supports understanding of how children learn and develop, the importance of play, family diversity, and the practitioner's role in promoting wellbeing and positive outcomes for all children.

The course is comprised of 3 mandatory units and one optional unit:

Early Learning and Play

The unit explores how young children learn through play. Learners will examine different types of play, the role of the practitioner in planning experiences, and how play supports learning, creativity, and development.

Contemporary Families

This unit focuses on the wide range of family structures in modern society. Learners will develop an understanding of inclusion, respect, and effective communication when working with children and families from diverse backgrounds.

Development and Wellbeing of Young Children

This unit examines stages of child development and the factors that influence wellbeing. Learners will explore how to support children's physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development.

Working in Early Learning and Childcare

This unit introduces professional roles and responsibilities, including teamwork, health and safety, safeguarding, and reflective practice in early learning and childcare settings.

Course Components

Unit Name	Type of Assessment(s)
Early learning and play	Combination of formative and summative assessments - internally assessed
Contemporary families	Combination of formative and summative assessments - internally assessed
Development and wellbeing of young children	Combination of formative and summative assessments - internally assessed
Working in early learning and childcare	Combination of formative and summative assessments - internally assessed



Early Education & Childcare – National 5

Course Assessment Information

Assessment is continuous and designed to support learners in developing practical skills and knowledge for early learning and childcare settings. A range of assessment methods is used to reflect real workplace practice.

Learners will be assessed through practical tasks, such as planning and participating in play experiences, supporting care routines, and demonstrating safe working practices. Written and digital evidence may include short reports, worksheets, posters, or reflective logs linked to unit outcomes.

Observation and questioning will be used to assess understanding of child development, wellbeing, safeguarding, and professional responsibilities. Group work and presentations may be used to assess communication, teamwork, and awareness of contemporary families and inclusive practice. Assessment is mainly pass/fail, with learners required to meet set criteria rather than sit formal exams. Feedback is provided regularly to help learners reflect on progress, build confidence, and prepare for progression into further study, training, or employment in early learning and childcare.

Progression Pathway

There are a wide range of career pathways available within early learning and childcare, offering opportunities to work with children in a variety of settings. These pathways can lead to roles in nurseries, schools, playgroups, out-of-school care and family support services, as well as progression into senior, managerial or specialist positions.

SCQF Level 6: National Certificate (NC) in Early Education and Childcare

A more vocational qualification preparing you for a qualified practitioner role.

Higher National Certificate (HNC) / Higher National Diploma (HND)

These are higher education qualifications (SCQF Level 7/8) useful if you want to become a childhood practice specialist or move toward management.

Foundation or degree programmes

Some learners go on to degrees in Early Childhood Studies, Childhood Practice, Education, or Social Services (Children & Young People).

Modern Apprenticeship in Early Education & Childcare

Combines on-the-job training with a qualification – good if you want to earn while you learn.

Completing Skills for Work can also lead directly into employment, especially if you gain experience (e.g., placements or volunteering):

Entry-Level Roles:

- Nursery Assistant
- Early Years Practitioner
- Playgroup Assistant
- Childcare Assistant / Support Worker
- Creche Worker



English – Advanced Higher

Course Content/Structure

Advanced Higher English develops highly advanced skills in reading, writing, listening and talking, with a strong emphasis on independent learning and critical thinking. Pupils study a range of texts, including drama, poetry and prose, at a level similar to first-year university study.

Pupils develop sophisticated critical and evaluative reading skills, exploring writers' use of language, structure, form and ideas in depth. They study two plays and produce extended critical essays under exam conditions. Writing skills are further developed through the completion of an independent dissertation and portfolio, which requires research, planning and sustained academic writing.

Talking and listening skills are developed through seminar-style discussions and presentations, where pupils are expected to contribute confidently and thoughtfully.

The course encourages independent research, mature judgement and original thinking, supporting strong progression to higher education, professional careers and lifelong learning.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Literary Study	20%	Reading and Writing	20	1 hour 30
Textual Analysis	20%	Reading and Writing	20	1 hour 30
Dissertation	30%	Reading and Writing	30	On-Going
Folio	30%	Writing	30	On-Going

Course Assessment Information

Question Paper: Literary Study

This question paper assesses candidates' application of their critical reading skills and their knowledge and understanding of previously-studied literary texts. The question paper has a total mark allocation of 20 marks. This is 20% of the overall marks for the course assessment. Candidates apply their understanding, analysis and evaluation skills to previously-studied texts from one of the following genres: poetry, prose fiction, prose non-fiction, or drama. This takes the form of one appropriately structured critical essay.

Question Paper: Textual Analysis

This question paper assesses candidates' application of critical reading skills to an unseen literary text. The question paper has a total mark allocation of 20 marks. This is 20% of the overall marks for the course assessment. Candidates apply their understanding, analysis and evaluation skills to one unseen text. Candidates select one text from the genres of poetry, prose fiction, prose non-fiction or drama and produce a critical analysis which is appropriately structured to meet the demands of the question.

English – Advanced Higher

Portfolio–Writing

The portfolio–writing provides evidence of candidates' skills in writing in one genre. The portfolio–writing has a total mark allocation of 30 marks. This is 30% of the overall marks for the course assessment. 15 marks are available for the piece of writing within the portfolio. The 30% weighting is achieved by doubling the mark for one piece.

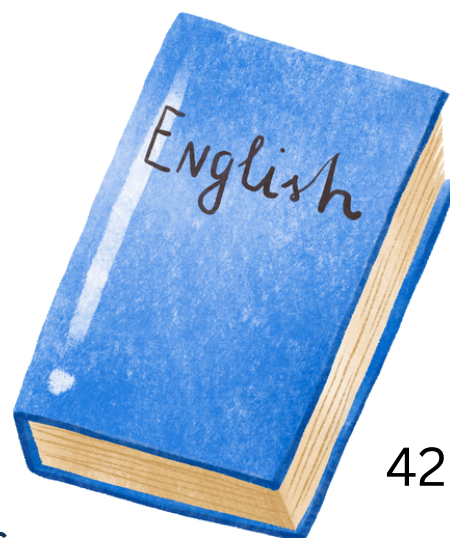
Candidates produce one written text. They can choose this text from their writing done throughout the course. Candidates must complete the first draft of the piece of writing in class under supervision.

Progression Pathway

Advanced Higher English supports progression to university study, particularly in subjects such as English, literature, humanities and social sciences. It also strengthens applications for competitive degree courses, teacher education, and other professional pathways. The course develops advanced skills in independent research, critical analysis and academic writing, which are essential for success in higher education, college courses and a wide range of careers requiring strong communication and analytical skills.

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
- Archivist
- Museum Guide ...



English – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher English helps pupils further develop advanced skills in reading, writing, listening and talking. Throughout the course, pupils study a range of Scottish and wider texts, including drama, poetry, prose fiction and non-fiction, with a strong focus on detailed analysis and interpretation.

Pupils develop critical and evaluative reading skills, exploring writers' use of language, structure and ideas, and analysing how these shape meaning and impact. They study Scottish set texts and practise writing critical essays under exam conditions. Writing skills are developed through the production of a folio of writing, which may be broadly creative and/or broadly discursive.

Talking and listening skills are developed through presentations and discussions, requiring pupils to express ideas clearly, thoughtfully and confidently.

The course encourages independent thinking and mature responses to texts. Higher English supports progression to further and higher education and develops skills essential for employment and life beyond school.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
RUAE	30%	Reading	30	1 hour 30
Critical Reading	40%	Reading and Writing	40	1 hour 45
Folio	30%	Writing	30	On-going

Course Assessment Information

The award is made up of three mandatory units:

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

English – Higher

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

Why is it useful?

The Higher Literacy Award 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, even if they do not take Higher English.

Progression Pathway

Higher English allows pupils to progress to Advanced Higher English, university and higher education, and other Senior Phase qualifications. It also supports entry to college courses, apprenticeships and further training programmes. Higher English is often a key entry requirement for many degree courses, professional pathways and competitive training programmes.

Careers/Skills

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



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 – Higher

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 1	46%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	100	1 hour 50 mins
Question Paper 2	27%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	60	1 hour 10 mins
Assignment	27%	Assignment (During class time)	30	1 hour 30 mins

Course Assessment Information

Question Paper 1 (Exam) – 100 marks

- This question paper has two sections:
- Section 1: Physical environments
- Section 2: Human environments
- Each section is worth 50 marks and consists of extended-response questions

Question Paper 2 (Exam) – 60 marks

This question paper has two sections:

- Section 1: Global issues is worth 40 marks. Candidates choose two from the four questions. Each question is worth 20 marks.
- Section 2: Application of geographical skills is worth 20 marks and consists of a mandatory extended-response question. The skills assessed in the question include mapping skills and the use of numerical/graphical information.

Assignment – 30 marks

The assignment has a greater emphasis on the assessment of skills than the question papers. The remaining marks are awarded for the demonstration of knowledge and understanding.

Geography – Higher

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

This course may provide progression to other qualifications in geography or related areas, further study, employment or training.

Possible Careers:

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

Skills Developed:

- Advanced data-handling and interpretation
- Critical thinking and evaluation of sources
- Decision-making using real-world geographical scenarios
- Fieldwork, research and investigation skills
- Strong mapping skills
- Problem-solving applied to physical and human geography
- Clear communication using maps, diagrams and geographical terminology



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 – Higher

Course Content/Structure

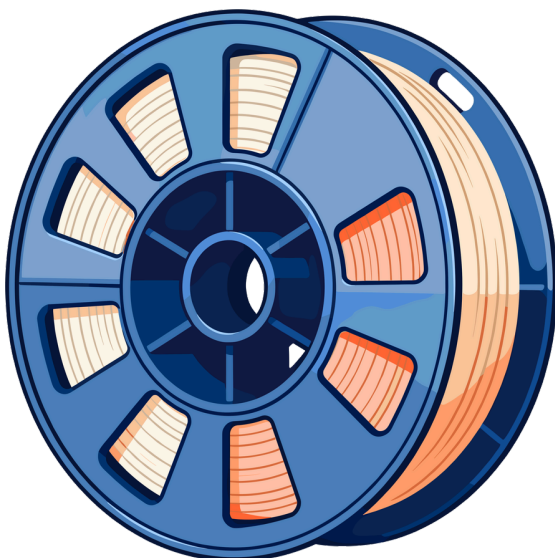
The Higher Graphic Communication develops advanced skills in visual communication, allowing learners to communicate complex ideas clearly and accurately using graphics. The course combines creativity with technical accuracy and prepares learners for further study or careers in design, engineering and digital media.

The course focuses on two main areas: 2D graphic communication, and 3D and pictorial graphic communication. In 2D graphics, learners produce and interpret preliminary, production and promotional graphics, applying recognised drawing standards, conventions and layout principles. In 3D and pictorial graphics, learners create and interpret detailed pictorial drawings and CAD models, developing strong spatial awareness and visual literacy.

Throughout the course, learners use a range of manual and computer-aided techniques, including CAD and desktop publishing software. They also explore how graphic communication is used in industry and how digital technologies impact society and the environment.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	64%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	90	2 hours and 30minutes
Assignment	36%	Assignment (During class time)	50	8 hours





Graphic Communication – Higher

Course Assessment Information

Assessment at Higher Graphic Communication is designed to assess learners' ability to apply skills and knowledge in realistic and increasingly complex graphic contexts. It focuses on:

- Breadth – drawing on learning from across 2D, 3D and pictorial graphics
- Challenge – interpreting and producing complex graphic information
- Application – using skills in practical, design and commercial situations

Assessment consists of a written question paper and a practical assignment. The question paper assesses understanding of graphic standards, CAD, digital technologies and the interpretation of unfamiliar graphics. The assignment requires learners to produce preliminary, production and promotional graphics in response to set tasks.

This approach ensures learners are rewarded for both technical accuracy and creative problem-solving. Assessment and certification are provided by Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing Higher Graphic Communication, learners can progress to Advanced Higher Graphic Communication or related subjects such as Higher Design and Manufacture or Higher Art and Design.

College and university pathways include:

- Graphic and Digital Design
- Product Design
- Architecture and Built Environment
- Engineering and CAD
- Media and Visual Communication

Careers/Skills

Possible careers include:

Graphic Designer, CAD Technician, Architect, Product Designer, Design Engineer, Visualisation Specialist, and roles in marketing and digital media.

Skills developed include:

- Advanced visual and spatial thinking
- CAD and digital design skills
- Interpretation of technical information
- Creativity and problem-solving
- Communication and presentation skills

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

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.

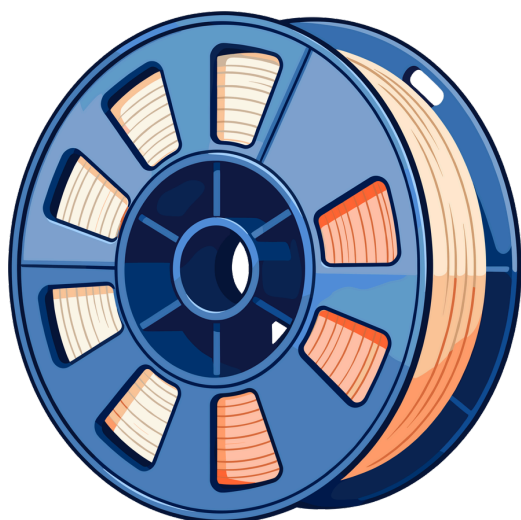
Design Principles: Exploring colour, layout, and typography to produce professional-quality work.

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.

History – Higher

Course Content/Structure

This Higher course develops advanced knowledge, understanding and historical enquiry skills across three contexts.

Scottish – Migration & Empire, 1830–1939: reasons for internal/external migration of Scots; experiences of immigrants in Scotland; impact of Scots on the Empire (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India); and effects of migration and empire on Scotland.

British – Britain, 1851–1951: democratisation (1851–1928), women and the vote, reasons for and effectiveness of Liberal reforms (1906–14), and effectiveness of Labour’s welfare reforms (1945–51).

European & World – USA, 1918–1968: changing attitudes to immigration in the 1920s; obstacles to Black civil rights to 1941; causes of the 1929–33 economic crisis; effectiveness of the New Deal; development of the Civil Rights movement after 1945; and outcomes to 1968.

Across all topics, learners analyse causes, consequences and significance; evaluate interpretations and sources; write structured extended responses; and make reasoned judgements.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1 – British, European & World History	40%	External exam	44	1 h 30 m
Question Paper 2 – Scottish History	33%	External exam	36	1 h 30 m
Assignment	27%	Externally marked assignment	30	1 h 30 m

History – Higher

Course Assessment Information

Higher History – Assessment

Question Paper 1 – 44 marks; 1 h 30 m. Candidates answer one British and one European/World essay. Responses assess detailed knowledge, analysis and evaluation. [

Question Paper 2 – 36 marks; 1 h 30 m. Four source/enquiry questions sampled from:

- Evaluate the usefulness (8)
- Explain the reasons (8)
- How much do Sources ... reveal about differing interpretations (10)
- How fully (10)
-

These formats/mark allocations reflect the current Higher Scottish paper marking instructions and Understanding Standards exemplars.

Assignment – 30 marks; 1 h 30 m. Independently researched write-up under controlled conditions. Candidates may use a single Qualifications Scotland resource sheet.

Grading: The award (A–D) is based on the total marks across all components.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Progression to Advanced Higher History or related Social Subjects.

Careers/Skills: Builds high-level skills in research, critical reading, extended writing, evaluating interpretations, and evidence-based judgement—valuable for pathways such as:

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



History – National 5

Course Content/Structure

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

Historical Study: Scottish – Migration & Empire, 1830–1939: causes of migration; experiences and the economic, social and political impacts on Scotland and Empire.

Historical Study: British – The Making of Modern Britain, 1851–1951: industrial and social change; Liberal reforms; the impact of the World Wars; and the growth of democracy and the welfare state.

Historical Study: European & World – Free at Last? Civil Rights in the USA, 1918–1968: segregation; campaigns and key figures; opposition; federal and state actions; and legislative change.

Across all topics, pupils practise describing and explaining causes and consequences, evaluating the usefulness of sources, comparing viewpoints, and making reasoned judgements in responses.

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.



Human Biology – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher Human Biology is an SCQF Level 6 qualification designed to deepen students understanding of how the human body functions, how it maintains health, and how biological knowledge is applied in society. It builds directly on National 5 Biology and prepares pupils for further study in science, health, and medical-related fields.

The course is organised into three units, each consist of 8 key areas:

- Unit 1 Human Cells – cell structure, DNA, cell division, stem cells, and how cells produce energy.
- Unit 2 Physiology & Health – reproductive biology, hormones, the cardiovascular system, and the impact of lifestyle on health.
- Unit 3 Neurobiology & Immunology – the nervous system, memory and learning, and how the immune system protects the body.

Across these units, students develop analytical thinking, problem-solving, practical laboratory skills, and the ability to evaluate scientific issues.

Students take part in:

- practical experiments
- investigative tasks
- data analysis
- research and discussion of real-world biological issues

This hands-on approach helps students understand how biological knowledge is applied in medicine, industry, and society.

Higher Human Biology is ideal for students who:

- enjoyed National 5 Biology
- are interested in health, medicine, sports science, psychology, or life sciences
- want to develop strong scientific and analytical skills



Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper	80%	Qualifications Scotland exam paper	Paper 1 - 25 Paper 2 - 95 Total – 125	Paper 1 40 minutes Paper 2 2 hours 20 minutes
Assignment	20%	Assignment Report (class time & exam)	20	8 hours plus 2 hours for final report



Human Biology – Higher

Course Assessment Information

All three units are assessed during class time:

- Mid-unit test (key areas 1 to 4)
- End of the unit (key areas 1 to 8)

In addition to the above assessments students will undertake a Prelim exam.

All assessments are of Qualifications Scotland standard and are based on previous past paper questions. They include multiple choice and extended response questions covering the following:

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

In addition to the above students will also complete an Qualifications Scotland externally assessed Assignment Report.

Homework

Students will be expected to complete regular homework tasks. In addition, students must commit to regularly revising their notes to ensure that all new material is learned and understood.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After successfully completing the Higher Human Biology course, students can progress to study Advanced Higher Biology.

Higher Human Biology is also widely recognised by colleges, universities and employers such as:

- nursing, paramedic science, biomedical science, and other health-related courses
- science-based apprenticeships or employment in health and care sectors

Examples of current biology related college courses:

- HNC Applied Science (Glasgow Clyde College)
- HNC Applied Science – Pharmacology & Biomedical Science in conjunction with Glasgow
- Caledonian University (Glasgow Kelvin College)

Examples of current biology related university courses:

- BSc Hons Animal Biology (University of Stirling)
- MSci Microbiology (University of Strathclyde)
- BSc Hons Sports and Exercise Science (University of Glasgow)
- BSc Hons Mental Health Nursing (Edinburgh Napier University)

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.

Journalism – SCQF Level 6

Course Content/Structure

The National Progression Award in Journalism develops practical skills in researching, writing and producing journalistic content. At its core, the course focuses on research, interviewing and feature writing, giving learners experience in gathering information through both primary and secondary sources and transforming it into clear, engaging articles.

Learners explore the conventions of newswriting, understanding how news is sourced, structured and presented. They also develop skills in page layout and design, gaining experience in producing content suitable for print or online media. The course extends into modern digital journalism through units in basic website development and photography, enabling learners to create multimedia news content aligned with current industry practice.

Throughout the programme, students build key transferable skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork and IT, which are essential across media industries. The course also introduces a range of journalistic roles and working practices, helping learners understand the structure of today's media landscape.

Assessment is continuous and practical, with learners producing articles, interviews, features, webpages and photography as part of a professional-style portfolio. Successful completion of the required units leads to the Qualifications Scotland National Progression Award in Journalism.

Course Components

Unit Name	Type of Assessment(s)
Media: Research and Interview Skills for Journalism	In class - evaluative writing
Media: Feature Writing	In class - evaluative writing
Media: News Writing for Print	In class - evaluative writing
Media: Page Layout & Design for Print	In class - evaluative writing

Journalism – SCQF Level 6

Course Assessment Information

Assessment for the National Progression Award in Journalism is entirely internal and based on practical coursework completed throughout the year. Learners produce a portfolio of work that demonstrates competence in key areas of journalism, including:

- An article based on interview transcripts
- A feature article on a chosen issue
- A news-based website or digital news piece
- A journalistic blog incorporating text and photography

Each unit requires learners to plan, research and create original content, supported by written commentaries that explain their creative and editorial decisions. Successful completion of the required units leads to the full National Progression Award in Journalism (SCQF Level 6).

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Journalism SCQF Level 6 supports progression to school courses such as:

- Higher English, Higher Modern Studies, Higher Psychology, Higher Business Management, Higher Administration & IT, Higher Art & Design (Design) and Higher Drama

It also strengthens applications for competitive training programmes and apprenticeships.

Journalism SCQF Level 6 supports progression to university and college courses such as:

- HNC Practical Journalism / HND Practical Journalism
- NQ/NC Media & Journalism (SCQF Level 6)
- HNC Media & Communication (SCQF Level 7)
- HNC Creative Industries: Professional Writing
- HND Media & Communication (SCQF Level 8)
- HND Digital Film & Television (SCQF Level 8)
- Direct progression to HND Practical Journalism

Careers/Skills

Here is a clear, evidence-based list of careers that learners can progress toward after completing the NPA Journalism SCQF Level 6.

- Journalist (news, features, online, print)
- Broadcast journalist (radio or TV)
- Photojournalist
- Digital content creator / Online news writer
- Blogger / Online columnist
- Social media content producer / Social media assistant
- Copywriter (creative or commercial writing)
- Production assistant (media/broadcast)
- Research assistant for media or journalism teams
- and many more.....

Leadership – SCQF Level 5

Course Content/Structure

This course will allow you to investigate leadership and evaluate your own leadership potential before organising and leading sessions with younger pupils.

The course consists of 2 units:

Leadership: An Introduction

- Research leadership – look at styles, skills & qualities and principles
- Gather information – use a minimum of 4 sources to support producing a report on leadership
- Draw conclusions – by comparing different leaders, on the skills and qualities found in effective leaders
- Produce a report
- Carry out a self-evaluation of own potential for leadership

Leadership in Practice

You will be required to take a leading role for an activity involving:

- Preparing to carry out an activity
- Carrying out this activity thinking about all the factors involved
- Reviewing the activity and evaluating the effectiveness, drawing conclusions about what you have learned about yourself as a leader

Course Components

Units	
Unit Name	Type of Assessment(s)
Leadership: An Introduction	Internal
Leadership in Practice	Internal

Leadership - SCQF Level 5

Course Assessment Information

The Qualifications Scotland Leadership Award at SCQF Level 5 is assessed through two mandatory Units: Leadership: An Introduction and Leadership in Practice. There is no final exam; assessment is continuous and based on evidence gathered as learners complete leadership tasks.

Learners must research leadership styles, evaluate their own leadership qualities, and produce a written report for the first Unit. For the second Unit, they take a leading role in planning, organising and carrying out a practical leadership activity.

Evidence can include written work, diaries, interviews, witness statements, videos or photographs, allowing flexibility to suit the learner and the context. Assessment occurs at appropriate points throughout the course, and all evidence must meet Qualifications Scotland standards.

This award assesses the ability to lead others, reflect on performance and demonstrate responsibility, communication and organisational skills.

For the leadership in practice unit, in addition to your own completion of coursework you will be observed, and your teacher (assessor) will provide feedback and produce a report.

Progression Pathway

The Qualifications Scotland Leadership Award is designed to do far more than teach “how to be in charge.” It develops a broad set of personal, social, and practical skills that help young people thrive in school, work, and community life. These skills include:

- Leadership Knowledge and Techniques
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Self-Confidence and Self-Esteem
- Planning, Organisation, and Problem-Solving



Maths – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher Mathematics develops advanced algebraic, geometric, and analytical skills needed for further study and many technical careers. Learners extend their understanding of algebra, including functions, quadratics, polynomials, surds, logarithms, and exponential equations. They study trigonometry in greater depth, working with identities, the unit circle, and solving trigonometric equations.

In calculus, pupils learn differentiation and integration, applying these to rates of change, optimisation, areas under curves, and real-life modelling. Vectors are introduced to solve problems involving lines, direction, and magnitude in 2D and 3D.

The course also includes straight-line work, coordinate geometry, recurrence relations, and interpreting graphs to understand behaviour, limits, and properties of functions.

Problem-solving is central throughout the course, with learners applying techniques to abstract and real-life situations. Higher Maths prepares students for progression to Advanced Higher, university courses, apprenticeships, and STEM pathways.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1	46%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	55	1hr 15mins
Question Paper 2	54%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	65	1hr 30mins

Course Assessment Information

Higher Mathematics is assessed through a final exam made up of two papers. Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) tests algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and problem-solving skills without the use of a calculator. Paper 2 (Calculator) includes more complex multi-step questions involving functions, calculus applications, vectors, and trigonometric equations.

Both papers require detailed working and clear reasoning, with marks awarded for method as well as accuracy. Questions range from straightforward procedural tasks to extended problems in unfamiliar contexts.

There is no coursework element; the final grade is based entirely on the exam. Throughout the year, learners complete class assessments, topic tests, and past-paper practice to prepare for the demands and pace of the final examination.

Maths – Higher

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

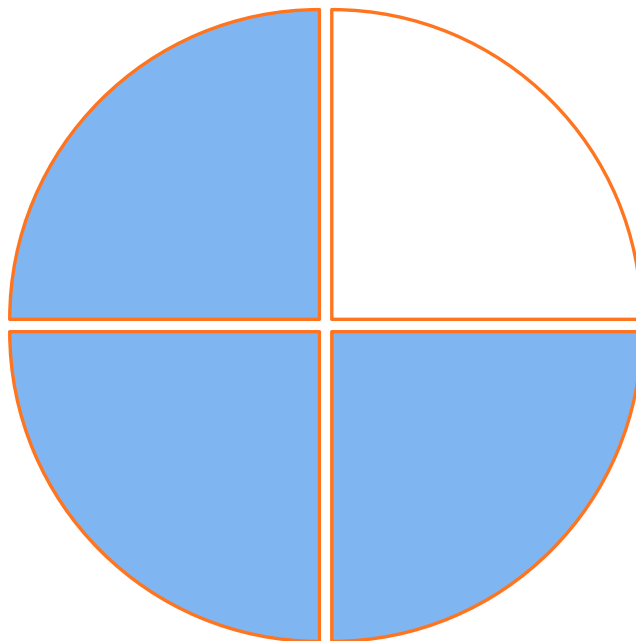
After completing this course, pupils can progress to Advanced Higher Mathematics.

Careers/Skills

Possible career pathways:

- Engineering - mechanical engineer, civil engineer, electrical engineer, aerospace engineer, chemical engineer
- Science & Technology - computer scientist / software developer, data analyst / data scientist, laboratory scientist, environmental scientist, forensic analyst,
- Finance & Business – accountant, actuary, economist, financial analyst, statistician
- Healthcare & Applied Sciences – pharmacist, radiographer, optometrist

Higher Maths is a key entry requirement for many STEM-related pathway.



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

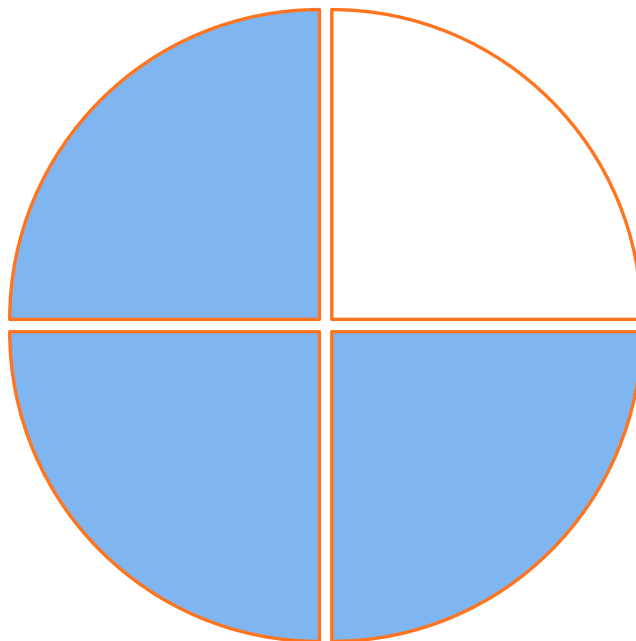
After completing this course, pupils can progress to Higher Mathematics or Higher Applications of Mathematics.

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 – Higher

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 complex 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, and analyse, some of the key issues within the UK's democracy today. This unit will focus on issues such as the effectiveness of voting systems used in the UK, the factors which influence voting behaviour in the UK, the impact of pressure groups on democracy in the UK and the effectiveness of parliamentary representatives to hold the government to account.
- **Social Issues in the United Kingdom** - in this unit pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding, and analyse, a key social issue affecting the U.K. today. This unit will focus on crime and the law in the U.K. and analyse issues such as analysing and evaluating the key theories and causes of crime, assessing the impact of crime on victims, families, offenders and wider society and evaluating the effectiveness of both custodial and non-custodial responses to crime.
- **International Issues (World Power)** - in this unit pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding, and analyse, an international issue in the world today. Pupils will study a world power, the USA, and analyse some of the political and socio-economic issues facing the USA today such as evaluating the effectiveness of the US political system, assessing the ways citizens can participate in the US political system, analysing the impact of social and economic inequality in the USA and assessing the effectiveness of the US Government in responding to issues of inequality.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1	47%	Qualifications Scotland exam	52	1 hour 45 minutes
Question Paper 2	26%	Qualifications Scotland exam	28	1 hour 15 minutes
Assignment	27%	Qualifications Scotland coursework – candidates research a topic of their choice, and complete a written report under exam conditions	30	1 hour and 30 minutes

Modern Studies – Higher

Course Assessment Information

Question paper 1: 3 sections (one section assessing each unit covered: Democracy, Social and International). Each section will provide the candidate with a choice of extended questions (essays) to complete. Candidates will complete one question from each section. Each question will require the candidate to complete an essay analysing the issue in the question. Candidates will complete one 12 mark question and two 20 mark questions. In total, 52 out of the 110 marks awarded for the Higher Modern Studies course award come from this question paper.

Question paper 2: 3 sections with each section assessing a specific skill. Candidates will analyse and evaluate a variety of complex sources. The following skills will be assessed in this question paper: reaching and justifying conclusions, judging the accuracy of a statement and evaluating the reliability of a series of sources. In total, 28 out of the 110 marks awarded for the Higher Modern Studies course award come from this question paper.

Assignment: candidates will choose an issue related to Modern Studies to research. It must be an issue about which they can make a decision. They will use a variety of sources, including a survey, to conduct their research of this issue. Candidates will complete a formal report about their research, under exam conditions. In this report they must make and justify a decision in relation to the issue they have been researching. The report will be sent to Qualifications Scotland for marking. The assignment is worth 30 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

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.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
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Music – Higher

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 Higher 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 Advanced Higher Music and beyond.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Performing	50%	Practical Exam	60	12 minutes
Question Paper	35%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	40	1 hour
Composition Assignment	15%	Assignment (During class time)	30	On going

Course Assessment Information

Higher Music is assessed through three components.

Performing requires pupils to prepare 12 minutes of music across two instruments / one instrument and voice, with a minimum of 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.

Music – Higher

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

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

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

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

Careers/Skills

Studying Higher 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



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 of 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.

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



Personal Finance – SCQF Level 5

Course Content/Structure

The Qualifications Scotland Personal Finance course at Level 5 develops learners' understanding of managing money confidently and responsibly in real-life situations.

At Level 5, learners build on this knowledge with more complex financial decision-making. Topics include financial planning, credit and borrowing, savings and investment options, and understanding financial risks. Learners also examine consumer rights and responsibilities, insurance, and the long-term impact of financial choices.

The course develops practical skills such as budgeting, analysing financial information, and evaluating options. The content supports independent living, employability, and progression into further study or work.

Course Components

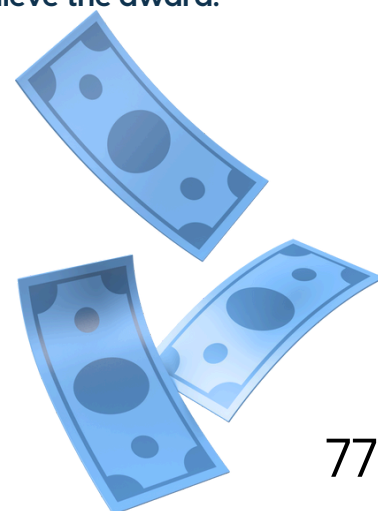
Unit Name	Type of Assessment(s)
Money Management	Digital Question Paper
Understanding Money(Level 5)	Digital Question Paper

Course Assessment Information

Personal Finance at Levels 4 and 5 is based on unit assessments that are internally assessed. Learners complete digital question papers on that demonstrate their ability to manage personal finance in everyday situations.

At Level 5, assessment requires applying financial knowledge to more detailed situations, including credit, borrowing, insurance, and financial planning. Learners analyse options, justify decisions, and assess financial risks.

There is no final exam; learners must meet all assessment standards to achieve the award.



Personal Finance – SCQF Level 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

The course builds strong life and employability skills, making it ideal preparation for college or training courses foundation or modern apprenticeships, financial, business, or vocational study

Careers/Skills

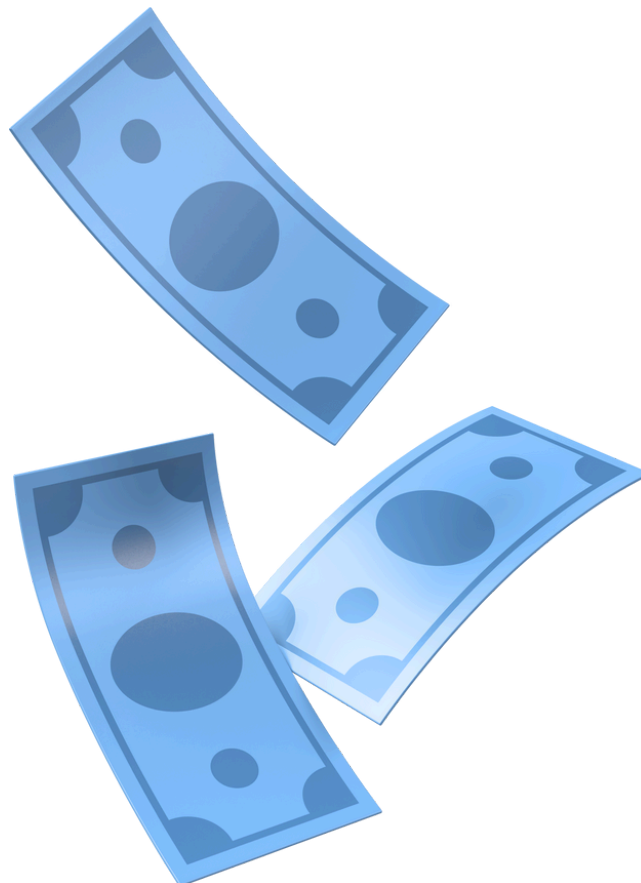
Possible career pathways include:

- Business and Administration - administrative assistant, accounts or payroll assistant, office junior, retail supervisor trainee
- Finance and Retail - banking or building society assistant, customer service adviser, insurance assistant, retail management trainee

The course also builds strong life and employability skills, making it ideal preparation for:

- College or training courses
- Foundation or Modern Apprenticeships
- Further financial, business, or vocational study

These qualifications are especially valuable for young people planning independent living or entering the workforce with confidence.



Physical Education – Higher

Course Content/Structure

The Higher PE course has 2 sections:

1. Performance Skills:

The course aims to enable pupils to:

- develop a broad and comprehensive range of complex movement and performance skills.
- select, demonstrate, apply and adapt these skills, as well as make informed decisions to effectively perform in physical activities.
- develop consistency, precision, control and fluency of movement.
- respond to and meet the demands of performance in a safe and effective way.

2. Factors Impacting on Performance:

The course aims to enable pupils to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of how physical, mental, emotional and social factors impact on personal performance in physical activities.
- develop knowledge and understanding of a range of approaches used to develop performance and select and apply these approaches to improve development needs relating to each factor.
- create and adapt development plans, justify decisions relating to future development needs and evaluate performance development.

Course Entry Requirements:

Pupils would be expected to have attained an A pass at National 5 level

With the amount of written work required at this level, it is recommended that pupils have already achieved or are currently studying Higher English.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Performance	50%	Practical assessment of 2 different activities	60 (2 x 30)	Reflects the activity
Question Paper	50%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	50	2.5 hrs

Physical Education – Higher

Course Assessment Information

Pupils will be assessed through a combination of 2 one-off performances and a question paper.

The context in which the performance will be assessed will be challenging, competitive and/or demanding. Learners must demonstrate complex movement and performance skills with a high level of fluency and control. They must show that they understand and can respond to the different nature and demands presented by the performance and follow the rules, regulations and etiquette that apply to their chosen activity. The performance will be 60 marks (30 marks for each activity) and this will contribute to 50% of the overall course grade.

The Question Paper will be 2.5 hours and generated by the Qualifications Scotland, designed to assess applied knowledge, understanding and evaluation skills. This will be 50 marks and contribute to 50% of the overall course grade.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Pupils may progress to further education courses including HNC/HND programmes in Sports Coaching, Sports Science, Fitness, Health and Exercise, or Outdoor Education. Higher PE also supports entry to a wide range of university degree courses including Physical Education Teaching, Sports Science, Sport and Exercise Science, Coaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Development and related health or fitness degrees. They may also wish to study Refereeing - SCQF Level 7.

Careers/Skills

Higher Physical Education helps develop transferable skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork, decision-making, analysis and problem-solving. These skills are valuable for careers in teaching, coaching, fitness instruction, sports development, physiotherapy, sports psychology, leisure management, outdoor education, the armed forces and emergency services, as well as roles that require strong interpersonal and analytical skills.



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 - 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:

- 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 – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher Physics builds on what is learned at National 5. It helps pupils understand how the universe works, from motion and relativity to electricity, particles and waves. Pupils will use more maths, think more deeply, and learn to explain real-life physics problems.

The course is split into three main units.

Our Dynamic Universe involves the study of motion, forces and collisions followed by gravitation, special relativity and the expanding universe. You will learn to solve problems using the equations of motion, Newton's law of universal gravitation and Hubble's law

The Particles and Waves unit explores the fundamental forces and particles that make up the universe. Pupils will learn about the role of electric and magnetic fields in particle accelerators and investigate the behaviour of light and sound.

In Electricity pupils will learn about capacitors, semiconductors and the effect of internal resistance in cells.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper 1: Multiple choice	17%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	25	45 minutes
Question paper 2	63%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	130	2 hours, 15 minutes
Assignment	20%	Written report	20	8 hours

Physics – Higher

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:

- develop and apply knowledge and understanding of physics
- develop an understanding of the role of physics in scientific issues and relevant applications of physics
- develop scientific inquiry and investigative skills
- develop scientific analytical thinking skills, including scientific evaluation, in a physics context
- develop the skills to use technology, equipment and materials safely, in practical scientific activities
- develop planning skills
- develop problem-solving skills in a physics context
- use and understand scientific literacy to communicate ideas and issues and to make scientifically informed choices
- develop the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in physics
- develop skills of independent working

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After completing Higher Physics, pupils can progress to Advanced 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.

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 Cake Craft – National 5

Course Content/Structure

The course aims to enable candidates to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of methods of cake production
- develop knowledge and understanding of functional properties of ingredients used in cake production
- develop technical skills in cake baking
- develop technical and creative skills in cake finishing
- follow safe and hygienic working practices
- develop their knowledge and understanding of cake design and follow trends in cake production
- acquire and use organisational skills in the context of managing time and resources

This hands-on and experiential course focuses on developing a variety of cake baking and finishing skills. It allows candidates to refine and showcase their creativity through the production of cakes and other baked goods. The course enhances critical thinking abilities such as understanding, analysis, evaluation, and creation. It also emphasises numeracy, employability skills, and safe, hygienic work practices. Candidates gain a solid understanding of cake production methods, and the functional properties of ingredients used in cakes and other baked items. They develop practical skills in baking a wide range of cakes and other baked goods, applying specialist techniques and processes safely and hygienically. Additionally, the course helps candidates improve their ability to finish cakes and baked items with precision.

Assessment involves planning and practical assignments, focusing on both knowledge and application. This course is ideal for students interested in hospitality, food product development, design or creative careers.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Assignment	30%	Section 1 – During class time Section 3&4 – Exam conditions	30	Not limited 1 hour
Practical Activity	70%	Section 2 – During class time	70	Not limited

Practical Cake Craft – National 5

Course Assessment Information

Course assessment takes the form of an assignment and a practical activity which draw on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the course. The assignment and practical activity require candidates to extend their knowledge, understanding and skills in the context of baking and finishing a cake from a design brief. A rich fruit cake is recommended for this purpose, although alternative cake types can be selected from those listed in the course specification.

Assignment: stage 1: designing; stage 3: demonstrating knowledge and understanding; and stage 4: evaluating, will be submitted to Qualifications Scotland for marking. Practical activity: stage 2: implementing, will be internally marked and quality assured by centre staff in line with Qualifications Scotland marking instructions.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

College Courses - NC Bakery (Level 5/6), HNC Professional Cookery: Patisserie, NPA Bakery

*Please note that no Higher is available in this subject area

Careers/Skills

Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course

The following provides a broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the course:

- interpreting a design brief
- carrying out a practical activity to meet the requirements of a design brief
- knowledge of methods of cake baking and finishing
- knowledge of functional properties of ingredients used in production of cakes and other baked items
- skills in baking and finishing in the production of cakes and other baked items
- creatively applying finishing techniques to cakes and other baked items
- working safely and hygienically
- using specialist tools and equipment with dexterity and precision in routine and familiar tasks
- organisational and time management skills
- the ability to evaluate against a set of criteria

Direct Employment

Cake Decorator, Bakery Assistant, Artisan Baker, Catering Assistant

Specialized Careers

Pastry Chef, Food Technologist, Chocolatier, Home Economics Teacher

Self-Employment

Bespoke Celebration Cake Business, Sugar Craft Instructor



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

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)

Food & Drink Industry

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

Transferable Skills for Any Career:

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

Practical Electronics – National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Practical Electronics introduces learners to the principles and applications of electronics through hands-on design, simulation and construction tasks. The course develops understanding of key electrical concepts, including current, voltage, resistance, power, analogue/digital signals and electronic components, while also building problem-solving skills used in real-world technological contexts.

Learners explore circuit design, where they analyse electronic problems and create effective solutions using a range of components and sub-systems. They use circuit simulation software to model, test and refine their designs, allowing them to understand circuit behaviour before construction.

In the circuit construction element, learners build electronic circuits using both permanent (soldering) and non-permanent methods. They develop skills in wiring, assembly, safe use of tools and testing procedures to ensure circuits function correctly.

Throughout the course, learners also consider the impact of electronics on society and the environment, and apply safe working practices. The course prepares students for further study or careers in engineering, electronics or related technology fields.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Practical Activity	70%	In class practical activity	80	As required
Question Paper	30%		60 - Scaled to 30	

Course Assessment Information

National 5 Practical Electronics is assessed through two Qualifications Scotland components:

Question Paper – 30%

A 1-hour written exam assessing knowledge of electrical concepts, circuit theory, components, system design and problem-solving. It includes both short- and extended-response questions and is externally marked by Qualifications Scotland.

Practical Activity – 70%

Learners must design, simulate, construct and test an electronic solution to a given problem. This includes circuit design, simulation work and physical construction using permanent and non-permanent methods. The work is internally assessed and quality-assured by Qualifications Scotland.

Practical Electronics – National 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

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

College pathways include:

- NQ Engineering (SCQF Level 6)
- NQ Electrical Engineering
- NPA Engineering Principles
- HNC Engineering Systems / Electrical Engineering (with additional qualifications)

Careers/Skills

Practical Electronics builds foundational skills used across engineering, technical and manufacturing sectors. Related career pathways include:

Engineering & Technical Roles

- Electronic Technician
- Electrical Engineer (with further study)
- Maintenance Technician
- Electrical Installation Roles
- Telecommunications Technician

Manufacturing & Technology

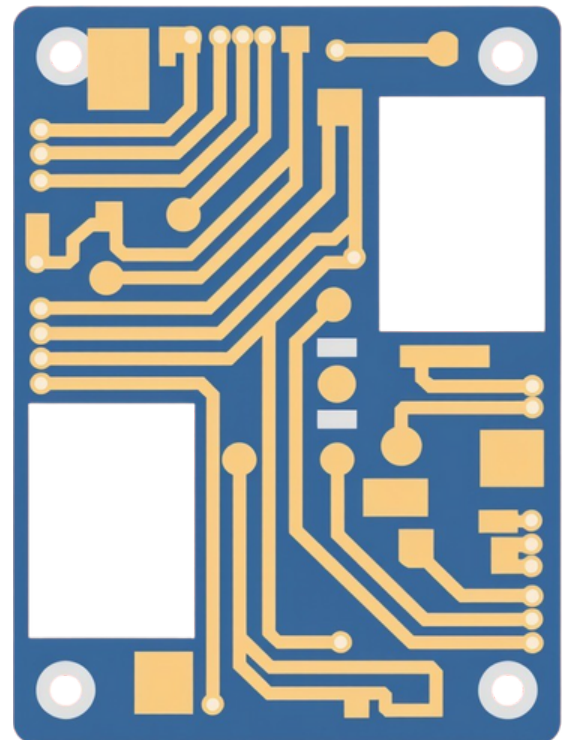
- Machine Operator / Engineering Operative
- Robotics or Automation Technician
- Renewable Energy Technician

Construction & Trades

- Electrician (via Modern Apprenticeship or SVQ route)
- Construction Site Technician

STEM & Specialist Pathways

- Electronics Design Assistant
- Product Testing & Quality Control
- Technical Support Roles (hardware/electronics)



Practical Metalworking – National 5

Course Content/Structure

National 5 Practical Metalworking is a hands-on, workshop-based course that develops practical skills in the manufacture of metal products. The course emphasises safe working practices, accuracy and quality, while building confidence in the use of tools, equipment and materials.

The course is structured around three key areas of study. In Bench Skills, learners develop core metalworking techniques including measuring, marking out, cutting, shaping and fitting using hand tools. In Machine Processes, learners use metalworking machines to produce accurate components, developing precision and consistency. In Fabrication and Thermal Joining, learners form and join metal components using processes such as bending, riveting and welding.

Across all areas, learners interpret working drawings, apply sustainability and recycling practices, and develop problem-solving skills within realistic workshop contexts.

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 Metalworking focuses 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 situations

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

Marks are awarded for accuracy, quality of manufacture, use of tools and machinery, fabrication and joining techniques, finishing, and adherence to health and safety. Assessment is internally marked and quality assured by Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Practical Metalworking – National 5

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

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

College pathways include:

- Fabrication and Welding
- Engineering
- Manufacturing and Machining
- Construction and Mechanical Trades

Careers/Skills

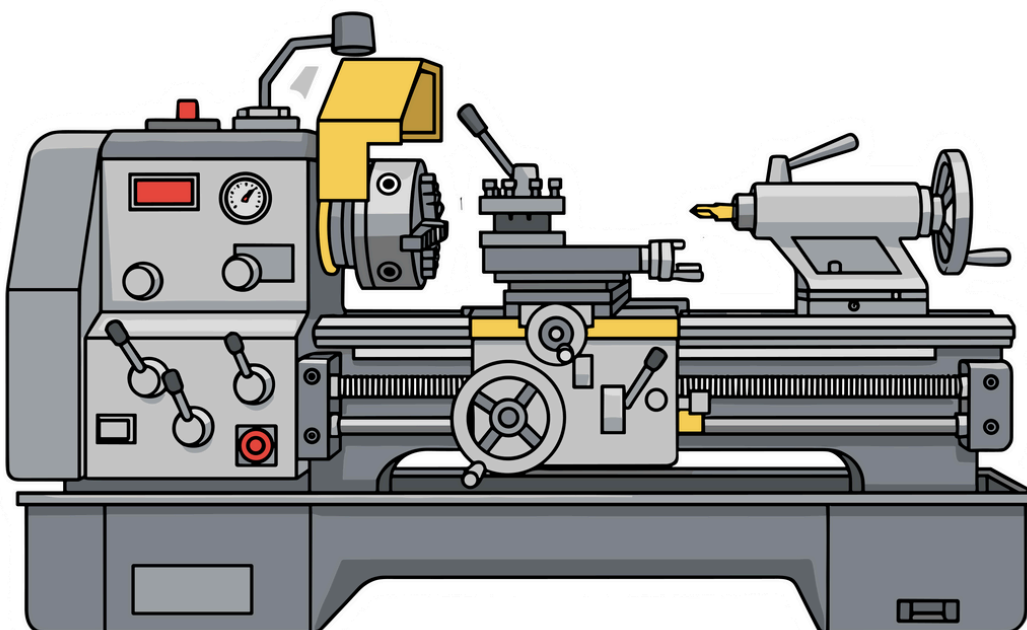
Possible careers include:

Fabricator, Welder, Machinist, Mechanical Technician, Engineering Operative, Toolmaker, and roles in manufacturing and construction industries.

Skills developed include:

- Practical problem-solving
- Precision and attention to detail
- Safe use of tools and machinery
- Planning and organisation
- Teamwork and independent working

These skills are highly valued across engineering, manufacturing and technical trades.





Psychology – Higher

Course Content/Structure

We study biological and psychological theories that explain human behaviour while developing strong evaluation and analysis skills. You will learn how to design investigations, work with variables and data, use descriptive statistics, and analyse key psychological studies from the early 1900s to today.

The mandatory topics are:

- Sleep and dreams
- Conformity and obedience
- choice of either Memory or Prejudice as the third topic.

Sleep and dreams explores why we dream as well as the stages of sleep, common disorders such as insomnia and sleepwalking, and the treatments used to improve sleep.

Conformity and obedience focuses on how people change their behaviour in groups or under authority, including different types of conformity, influencing factors, and real-world examples.

Memory looks at how we create, store, and retrieve information, why forgetting happens, and practical ways to improve recall.

Prejudice covers stereotypes, discrimination, causes such as social identity and learning, and strategies to reduce prejudice through cooperation and education.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	67%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	60	2 Hours
Assignment	33%	Assignment	40	Ongoing in class and at home

Psychology – Higher

Course Assessment Information

The Higher Psychology exam assesses how well you understand and use key psychological concepts, theories, and approaches. You're expected to explain behaviour accurately, apply ideas to real-world situations, and use appropriate terminology throughout your answers.

A major part of the exam involves analysing and evaluating psychological theories and research. This includes discussing strengths and weaknesses, considering ethical issues, and interpreting data or evidence to support your points.

You're also assessed on how clearly and logically you communicate. Strong written structure, relevant information selection, and effective use of evidence all contribute to demonstrating your overall understanding of psychology.

The assignment is a great opportunity for you to design your own investigation into human behaviour. You will plan, conduct, and report your own psychological investigation. You choose a topic you find interesting, review relevant research, design a method, gather and analyse data, and evaluate your findings. It assesses your ability to apply research skills, think critically, and communicate psychological evidence clearly and accurately.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

College courses:

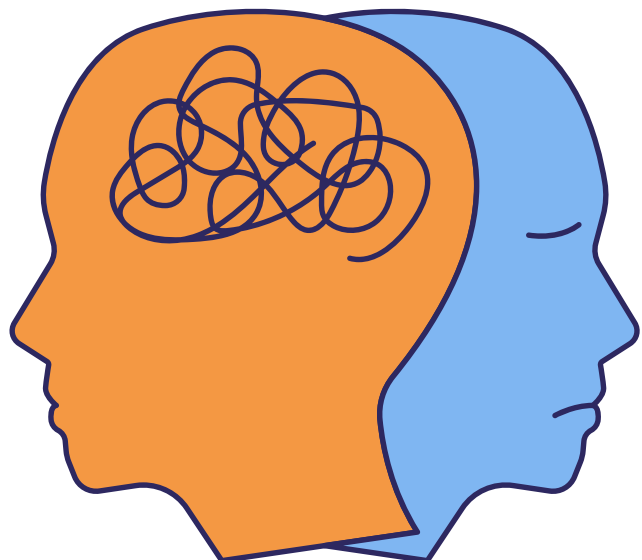
- Criminology
- Applied Psychology
- Social Sciences
- Access to nursing
- And more

University courses:

- Psychology
- Neuroscience with psychology
- Health Sciences
- Nursing
- Health Sciences
- Sports and Exercise Science
- And more

Careers/Skills

- Psychologist/counsellor (some types of psychologists are clinical, counselling, educational, forensic, health, sport and exercise)
- Human resource officer
- Intelligence analyst
- Solicitor
- And more



Analytical, critical thinking, evaluating, communication skills will all be developed.

Refereeing – SCQF Level 7

Course Content/Structure

The Qualifications Scotland SFA Refereeing Course (Professional Development Award at SCQF Level 7) is a vocational qualification developed jointly by the Scottish Qualifications Authority and the Scottish Football Association. It focuses on building the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to officiate football matches and to begin a refereeing career.

The course has two mandatory units: Laws of the Game and Practical Refereeing. In the first unit, learners study the 17 official laws, how to interpret them and are assessed through online theory tests. The second unit emphasises applying that theory in real contexts – including fitness standards, match control, misconduct and match reporting. It also includes practical assessments such as refereeing matches under guidance.

Designed for aspiring or new referees, especially in secondary schools, it equips participants with foundational officiating skills and is delivered through a mix of classroom learning and practical sessions. Successful completion allows learners to register with local referee associations, start refereeing games and gain exemptions in the SFA referee development pathway.

Course Components

Unit Name	Type of Assessment(s)
Laws of the Game	Online Exam (80% required to pass)
Practical Refereeing	Identify and analyse the formal controls and procedures used in a football match
	Produce misconduct and match reports in both formal & proforma style
	Achieve the fitness standard required by the Scottish FA
	Referee a football match using formal controls and procedures as defined in the Laws of the Game.

Refereeing – SCQF Level 7

Course Assessment Information

The course makes use of ongoing assessment throughout delivery rather than one single exam event. This means learners build evidence as they go, with tasks and activities completed during the course contributing to the final pass of each unit rather than only a single final test.

For the Laws of the Game unit, there is a formal closed-book online multiple-choice assessment for key theory, but much of the learning and preparatory work (e.g., logbooks and checklists completed during study) can be treated as open-book evidence in practical contexts before the formal assessment.

In Practical Refereeing, several assessment activities are open book: learners produce match and misconduct reports, complete development records, respond to recorded incidents, and keep a personal development/fitness diary. These tasks allow candidates to refer to course materials, their own notes, and practical experiences when compiling evidence.

Progression Pathway

Immediate Steps After Qualification

- Register with a Referees' Association – On successful completion of the PDA, candidates can join their local Scottish FA referees' association and begin officiating games at grassroots levels.
- Category Status – Completion earns a Category 7A refereeing classification under the SFA, valid for 12 months after which re-qualification may be needed.
- Refereeing Appointments – As a qualified referee, you can be appointed to amateur and grassroots football matches, earning match fees and gaining practical experience.

Longer-Term Development

- SFA Referee Pathway – With experience and additional assessments/observations, referees can progress through the SFA referee categories, moving from grassroots toward more senior levels.

Academic & Career Progression

- Further Qualifications – Achieved SCQF credit can support study into other PDAs in sport, higher sport awards, HNC/HND programmes and related fields such as coaching or sports development.
- Careers – Skills gained can also be valuable in coaching, PE teaching, sports administration, fitness or community sport roles.



Religious Education – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Within RMPS, we look at Morality and Justice, focusing on topics such as Sentencing and Causes of Crime. In addition to this we study theories for the Origins of the Universe and life; how did the world begin? We also study one of the major world religions; Buddhism where we learn about practices such as meditation.

The structure of the course is essay based. The final exam has 5 essays within it and there is also an assignment part of the course. This is where pupils get to choose a debatable topic and complete a piece of research work which relates to either a religious, moral or philosophical issue e.g. 'Can Capital Punishment ever be justified?'

As the course is heavily literacy based, a good grade in English is recommended if selecting to crash the course. It is similar to subjects such as Modern Studies, History, Psychology, Sociology, Business Management and English. The course focuses on skills in knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation. RMPS is an academic subject and there is no expectation for pupils to have any particular belief. It is not the same as core RE.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question Paper	73%	Question Paper	80	2 hours 15 minutes
Assignment	27%	Assignment	30	1 hour 30 minutes

Course Assessment Information

Candidates identify an issue of religious, moral or philosophical significance on which there are a range of viewpoints. They choose a question based on this issue, research the issue and gather sources relevant to their question. Candidates then draw upon the skills of knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation to produce an extended piece of writing in response to their question. They write this up in exam conditions and this piece of work is sent away to the Qualifications Scotland and assessed as part of the course.

The exam question papers assess the skills of applying in-depth knowledge and understanding, analysing and evaluating religious, moral and philosophical questions and presenting reasoned and well-structured views.

Religious Education - Higher

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

Advanced Higher is an optional progression but this is not offered at this school. When applying to universities and colleges, RMPS is considered an essay-based subject and is therefore looked on as a desirable subject to have. It helps to prepare pupils for the style of academic writing they will do at University / College. For example, it is a recommended subject for studying Law at the University of Strathclyde.

Careers/Skills

Pupils debate, develop opinions and build confidence and passion as they challenge each other's viewpoints. It is a literacy based subject, developing important skills such as analysis, evaluation and critical thinking. The topics are relevant, exciting and engaging and we often look at real life examples, media examples and current affairs. RMPS develops many skills which are useful for university / college and for many careers such as:

- Teaching
- Police
- Law
- Psychology
- Criminology
- Social Work
- Civil Service
- Medicine
- Healthcare
- Politics
- Management
- Journalism



Spanish – Higher

Course Content/Structure

Higher Spanish develops learners' ability to read, listen, talk and write using detailed and complex language across the contexts of society, learning, employability and culture. The course extends understanding of Spanish through real-life topics such as family and relationships, education, future plans, work and CVs, lifestyles, travel, media, global issues and cultural traditions.

Learners build confidence in using Spanish accurately by developing knowledge of advanced grammar, vocabulary and structures. Translation skills are introduced and practised through both written and listening tasks. Classroom activities include discussion, role-play, research, presentations and independent written work, helping learners apply the language in meaningful and varied ways.

The course is designed to deepen understanding of how language works, improve communication skills and promote cultural awareness. Learners learn to express opinions, analyse written and spoken texts, and produce extended writing with clarity and detail.

Overall, Higher Spanish equips learners with the linguistic skills and cultural insight needed for further study, travel, work or future qualifications in Modern Languages.

Course Components

Component Name	% of Course Award	Type of Assessment	Marks	Duration
Question paper 1 - reading	25%	Qualifications Scotland Exam	30	2 hours
Question paper 1 - directed 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	10 mins

Spanish – Higher

Course Assessment Information

Higher Spanish is assessed through five components, combining external exams and coursework.

Learners complete Reading (30 marks) and Writing (20 marks) in Paper 1, which assesses understanding of detailed written Spanish and the ability to produce an extended piece of writing of 150–180 words.

Paper 2 – Listening (20 marks) tests candidates' ability to understand spoken Spanish through a monologue and dialogue, answering questions based on key information.

Learners also complete an Assignment–Writing (20 marks), produced in school and externally assessed by the Qualifications Scotland.

The final component is the Performance – Talking (30 marks), a prepared discussion lasting around 10 minutes, marked by the class teacher and externally verified.

Together, these components assess advanced skills in reading, listening, talking, writing and translation across real-life contexts.

Progression Pathway

Qualifications

After successfully completing Higher Spanish (grades A–D), pupils can progress to Advanced Higher Spanish, where they will further develop their confidence, fluency and ability to use detailed and complex language across a range of real-life contexts.

Skills and Career Relevance

Spanish is one of the world's most widely spoken languages, used across Europe, the Americas and beyond. Developing advanced language skills at Higher level opens doors both academically and professionally. Spanish is valuable for business, travel, international communication and cultural understanding, and it is highly sought after by employers who operate globally or work with international partners

The transferable skills gained—communication, problem-solving, intercultural awareness and critical thinking—are valued across many sectors, making Higher Spanish a strong asset for a wide range of future pathways.

Career Pathways

Higher Spanish can support progression into many career areas, including:

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



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

Spanish – National 5

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

