

Brae High School



English Department

Course Descriptors

Staff Names	Charlene Storey	Valerie Watt
Subjects	English	English
Broad General Education		
S1-3	<p>Each of our courses is literature based: we study several different texts and genres and use these as the basis and inspiration for writing in a variety of forms. Pupils will work on key literacy skills – reading, writing, talking, and listening – in English and will use these skills in all of their other subjects too.</p> <p>Pupils will study at least one text per term, including novels, poetry and film. The tasks they complete will be generated from or linked to the literature they are reading. These will include a variety of Close Reading, talking and listening assessments, creative writing (poetry, short stories) and discursive writing (writing to give opinions), completed at various points during the course. During the first term we also attend a film screening at Mareel for the Screenplay and the pupils write a review of the film they have seen; later in the year the pupils will enter a piece of their writing into the Shetland Library’s Young Writer of the Year Award.</p> <p>Reading is of huge importance and the school has a Books in Bags policy which encourages pupils to always have a book in the bag to read during spare moments and reminds everyone to read for at least 20 minutes each day. Reading is a key part of the English course and reading at home is part of each pupil’s homework. S1 also take part in Share Reading with Primary 1 as part of the Scottish Book Trust’s Book Bag initiative – the pupils thoroughly enjoy this each year and it helps to improve their confidence in reading aloud.</p> <p>Throughout the year the class has a dedicated library period each week during which they read for at least 20 minutes and are given time to work towards their Reading Awards (in Bronze, Silver and Gold) which involves completing a range of activities, each of which is about a books they have chosen and read. Certificates for these awards are handed out to pupils at whole school assemblies. Part of each library period is also spend on literacy and language skills and pupils will be given regular homework to help them become confident with important aspects of writing such as using apostrophes.</p>	
Senior Phase		
N4 /5	<p>N4 and N5 pupils study the same texts. This year our texts are: drama (Sailmaker – Alan Spence), and prose (Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck). We also study non-fiction extracts from broadsheet newspapers; deepen the pupils’ understanding of the English language; and, use film and drama productions to enhance their appreciation of each text.</p> <p>N4 Internal Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils will sit internal assessments in reading, writing, listening, and talk. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessments have been written by the BHS English department so that they can be linked to the texts we study and be as useful as possible to the pupils sitting them. • These assessments will take place at various times through the school year and will help to determine if a pupil is ready for N5 level assessment. <p>N5 External Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a pupil is to be entered for the final exam they must produce a folio containing two pieces of writing: one discursive/persuasive piece and one creative/personal piece. • They must also sit two exam papers: RUAЕ (texts with questions) and a critical reading exam (pupils will write a critical essay and answer questions on a passage of a text they have studied in class). • The final grade for N5 English is based on a pupil’s writing folio and exam performance alone. • Pupils must also pass an internal talk assessment. <p>This is a literature based course: we study several different texts and genres. This year our texts are: poetry (Norman MacCaig), drama (Sailmaker – Alan Spence), and prose (Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck or Animal Farm – George Orwell). We also study non-fiction extracts from broadsheet newspapers; deepen the pupils’ understanding of the English language; and, use film and drama productions to enhance their appreciation of each text.</p>
N5-2	<p>National 5</p> <p>National 5 English in S5/6 is a literature based course that covers a range of texts and genres. This year our texts are: poetry (Selected Poems – Norman MacCaig) and film (Stand By Me – dir. Rob Reiner) – these are different texts to those studied in N4 and are tailored to the needs of pupil sitting the course over two years. We also study non-fiction extracts from broadsheet newspapers; deepen the pupils’ understanding of the English language; and, use film and drama productions to enhance their appreciation of each text.</p> <p>Much of the classwork will focus on developing exam skills, in particular their knowledge of writing techniques and their ability to comment on the content, structure, style and literary techniques used in the texts and non-fiction articles we study. Pupils will be expected to take responsibility for independent study alongside their classwork – this will include homework and revision tasks.</p> <p>For some pupils this course will be a stepping stone to the Higher English course in S6. To do this requires hard work and steady progress with the coursework throughout the year to demonstrate that you may ready for the additional challenge of Higher the following year.</p> <p>N5 External Assessments</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a pupil is to be entered for the final exam they must produce a folio containing two pieces of writing: one discursive/persuasive piece and one creative/personal piece. • They must also sit two exam papers: RUAЕ (texts with questions) and a critical reading exam (pupils will write a critical essay and answer questions on a passage of a text they have studied in class). • The final grade for N5 English is based on a pupil’s writing folio and exam performance alone. • Pupils must also pass an internal talk assessment – the Spoken Language unit. <p>If you are unsure whether the two-year N5 course is the right option for you, speak to your teacher who will be able to advise you based on your performance so far.</p> <p>National 3 and 4</p> <p>If you are working at National 3 or 4 level in S5, you will study the same texts as the National 5 pupils (describe above) but will sit different assessments that are made for the level you are currently working at. These assessments are in listening, talking, writing, and reading, and your teacher will talk you through what is required for each one beforehand.</p>
Higher	<p>English</p> <p>Higher</p> <p>Higher English is a literature based course which allows pupils to develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and talking through studying several different texts and genres. Our texts are currently: prose (Sunset Song – Lewis Grassic Gibbon) and poetry (“Shooting Stars” and “Originally” – Carol Ann Duffy). We also study non-fiction extracts from broadsheet newspapers; deepen pupils’ understanding of the English language, building on their skills from N5 English; and, use film and drama productions to enhance their appreciation of each text.</p> <p>To cope with the demands of the Higher course, pupils are expected to have a sound knowledge of writing techniques and be able to comment in detail on the content, structure, style and literary techniques used in the texts and non-fiction articles we study.</p> <p>Independent study is an important part of achieving success in Higher English and pupils are expected to keep up with the coursework throughout the year as well as following their own revision timetable to solidify their knowledge and understanding of what has been covered.</p> <p>Higher Internal Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils will sit the Spoken Language assessment which tests their talking and listening skills

- This may be done as a group discussion or as an individual presentation
- The assessments we use have been written by the BHS English department so that they can be linked to the texts we study and be as useful as possible to the pupils sitting them.
- Pupils are expected to prepare thoroughly for the assessment and will be given advice on how to do so at the time
- This assessment is a mandatory requirement of the course and pupils must pass it in order to be eligible to sit the exam; passing this assessment, however, is not the only requirement and pupils must demonstrate throughout their coursework that they are working at Higher level in order to be entered for the exams at the end of the year.

Higher External Assessment

- If a pupil is to be entered for the final exam they must produce a folio containing two pieces of writing: on discursive/persuasive piece and one imaginative/personal piece.
- They must also sit two exam papers: an RUA paper (non-fiction texts with questions) and a Critical Reading paper (pupils will write a critical essay on a text they have studied in class and answer questions on a passage of another of their class texts)
- The final grade for Higher English is based on a pupil's writing folio and exam performance alone.

Due to the pace and challenge of Higher English some pupils benefit from taking the course over two years: if you would like to explore this option, you should speak to your English teacher who will be able to advise you. Similarly, some pupils benefit from taking a two-year N5 course or repeating their N5 exams before attempting Higher level – again, your teacher will be able to advise you what would work best based on your performance in English so far.