

National 4 English Course Specification

Why English?

Being competent in English is the key to success in many aspects of life and work. Skills in English language and communication are important in many school, college and university courses and essential in many occupations. A qualification in English is often required for entry to further and higher education. This course aims to improve and extend learners' experience of English literature in prose, poetry, drama and media.

Purpose and Aims of the Course

The Course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills. In particular, the Course aims to enable learners to develop the ability to:

- Listen, talk, read and write, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context;
- Understand, analyse and evaluate texts, as appropriate to purpose and audience in the contexts of literature, language and media;
- Create and produce texts, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context;
- Plan and research, integrating and applying language skills as appropriate to purpose, audience and context;
- Apply knowledge of language.

National 4 Courses are not graded.

Assessment

English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 4)

Through the study of straightforward texts in literature, language or media, learners will use their listening and reading skills to provide evidence of understanding, analysis and evaluation, as appropriate to purpose and audience.

English: Creation and Production (National 4)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking and writing skills to create and produce straightforward texts in a familiar context, as appropriate to purpose and audience. Learners will be required to demonstrate technical accuracy in written texts.

Literacy (National 4)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their reading, listening, writing and talking skills in a variety of forms relevant for learning, life and work. Learners will demonstrate their ability to read, listen to and understand straightforward texts. Learners will demonstrate their ability to communicate through talk and in writing. Learners will be required to demonstrate technical accuracy in written texts.

Added Value Unit

At National 4, added value will be assessed in an Added Value Unit and will address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:
other qualifications in English, such as the English National 5, or related areas of further study, employment and/or training.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

The Course enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness and be creative.

(Adapted from the SQA website: www.sqa.org.uk)