

# Arran High School



**S2 to S3 Option Handbook  
2021/22**

## Art & Design

National Qualifications in Art and Design provide learners with a broad, experience of art and design practice and related critical activities. Learners skills as they explore how to visually represent and communicate their through their work, and study the works of artists and designers.

The National 5 Art and Design Course enables learners to plan, develop, present creative art and design work, and to develop their critical range of art and design practice. The Course also enables learners to impact of external factors on artists and designers and their works.

The Higher Art and Design Course enables learners to communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas through the creative use of art and design materials, techniques and/or technology. Learners analyse a range of art and design practice and critically reflect on the impact of external factors on artists, designers and their work. They plan, develop, produce and present creative art and design work, develop personal creativity, and use problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice skills.



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### Is this course for me?

This Course is a broad-based qualification. It is suitable for all learners with an interest in art and design, and for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and extend their art and design skills.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed skills in planning, producing and presenting creative art and design work. They will be able to use art and design materials, techniques and/or technology in creative ways when developing and refining their ideas and work. Learners will also have developed understanding of artists and designers as creative practitioners.

### Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following three elements:

- **Expressive Portfolio.** Students will experiment in a range of art media in the production of observational studies and compositional developments that explore a theme of their own choosing. The Portfolio concludes with a Final Artwork that showcases students learning, skill and creativity
- **Design Portfolio**  
Students will plan, research and develop creative design work in response to an illustration design brief. The Portfolio concludes with a Final Design Solution that showcases students learning, skill and creativity
- **Art and Design Studies**  
Students will research and analyse, in depth, 2 works of 2 selected artists and 2 selected designers as well as analysing other works from a broad range of artists and designers.

### Course Assessment

National 4 – All work is internally assessed and is subject to SQA external verification.

National 5 – All work is externally assessed. The practical Portfolios contributing to 80% of the final Grade and a Question Paper, completed during the SQA Exam diet, contributing to 20% of the final Grade.

Higher – All work is externally assessed. The practical Portfolios contributing to 73% of the final Grade and a Question Paper, completed during the SQA Exam diet, contributing to 27% of the final Grade.

At Higher a greater degree of understanding of the social and cultural factors influencing artists and designers as well as a more forensic approach to analysis of art and design works is required; therefore, students will require good independent research skills, a solid understanding of art terminology and an ability to analyse art and design works with skill, insight and confidence.

# Biology

National Qualifications in Biology allow learners to investigate the applications of biology in society and the environment. These qualifications cover relevant and contemporary areas of biology, while allowing learners to develop an understanding of the underlying themes.

The National 5 Biology Course covers major areas of biology including cellular, whole organisms and ecosystems. The key areas of biodiversity, interdependence, body systems and cells and inheritance are developed through the Course.

The Higher Biology Course offers a broad and up-to-date selection of concepts and ideas relevant to the central position of life science within our society. Learners develop a deeper understanding of the underlying themes of biology — evolution and adaptation; structure and function; genotype and niche — and the scale of topics ranges from molecular through to whole organisms and beyond.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 5 and Higher consist of the following three units (each with different content):

### National 5

- Cell Biology  
- structure of cells; transport across cell membranes; cell division; DNA; genes & genetic engineering; production of proteins; enzymes; cell respiration.
- Multicellular Organisms  
- tissues, organisms & systems; stem cells; reproduction; control and communication; variation & inheritance; animal & plant transport.
- Life on Earth  
- photosynthesis; biodiversity & distribution of life; ecosystems; adaptations; natural selection & evolution; human impact on the environment.

### Higher

- DNA and the Genome  
- structure & replication of DNA; control of gene expression; cellular differentiation; mutations, evolution & genomic sequencing
- Metabolism and Survival  
- metabolic pathways; cellular respiration; metabolic rate; metabolism in conformers & regulations; environmental & genetic control in micro-organisms.
- Sustainability and Interdependence  
- food security; plant growth & productivity; plant & animal breeding; crop protection & animal welfare' symbiosis & social behaviour; biodiversity

## Course Assessment

To be successful at National 5 there is an expectation that you have performed to a high standard in the Biology topics within the S1-3 BGE course.

National 5 – The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 marks) and a question paper (100 marks); the course is graded A – D.

### Higher

Entry is at the discretion of the school, but you would normally be expected to have achieved National 5 Biology – A or B pass

The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 marks) and 2 question papers (120 marks); the course is graded A – D.



# Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of matter and its interactions. It explains the links between the nature of matter and the properties of the world. We all use chemical knowledge on a daily basis and chemists play a vital role in developing many of the everyday products that we take for granted.



The National 5 course is suitable for learners who wish to develop their interest and enthusiasm for Chemistry in a range of contexts. This includes the chemistry of the Earth's resources, the chemistry of everyday products and environmental analysis.

The Higher course is designed for students who wish to continue their study of Chemistry beyond National 5 and who may wish to progress to Advanced Higher. Students will develop the key skills of scientific inquiry, scientific literacy, investigation and analytical thinking in addition to an enhanced knowledge and understanding of Chemistry.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 5 and Higher consist of the following three units (each with different content):

To be successful at National 5 there is an expectation that you have performed to a high standard in the Chemistry topics within the S1-3 BGE course.

### National 5

#### Chemical Changes & Structures

- rates of reaction; atomic structure & bonding; formula writing; acids & bases. **Higher**

- 
- **Nature's Chemistry**  
- homologous series; everyday consumer products; energy from fuels.
- **Chemistry in Society**  
- metals; properties of plastics; fertilisers; nuclear chemistry; chemical analysis.

### Higher

Entry is at the discretion of the school, but you would normally be expected to have

achieved an A or B pass at National 5 Chemistry.

- **Chemical Changes & Structures**  
- controlling the rate; periodicity; structure & bonding.
- **Nature's Chemistry**  
- esters; fats; oils; proteins; chemistry of cooking; oxidation of food; soaps; detergents & emulsions; fragrances; skin care.
- **Chemistry in Society**  
- getting the most from reactants; equilibria; chemical energy; oxidising & reducing; chemical analysis

## Course Assessment

National 5 – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 marks) and a question paper (100 marks); the course is graded A – D.

Higher – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 marks) and 2 question papers (120 marks); the course is graded A – D.



# Computing Science

National Qualifications in Computing Science enable learners to develop a range of coding skills and computing acknowledges across a range of contemporary contexts. This includes the ability to develop, implement and test digital solutions.

The **National 5** Computing Science Course develops knowledge and understanding of key concepts and processes in computing science. Coding skills are developed using Python and HTML. Pupils will be expected to spend time coding outside lesson time in order to consolidate the work we do in class.

The **Higher** Computing Science Course introduces learners to an advanced range of computational processes and thinking. It further develops coding skills, introducing procedural methods to create efficient and complex programs. Learners gain an awareness of the importance that computing professionals play in meeting the needs of society today and for the future, in fields which include science, education, business and industry.

## Is this course for me?

The Course is designed to be of value to all learners, especially those considering further study or a career in computing science and related disciplines. Computing Science is one of the fastest growing areas of employment, with plenty of opportunities for those who have qualifications in the subject. Possible careers include: Website design, Games Development, Software Engineering, Cyber Security and Robotics.

Students will be active in their learning through a range of practical activities, which include programming, website design and database development. They can use a range of new technology, including Raspberry Pi computers, robots and electronic control interfaces to learn about computer hardware.



## Course Structure

Courses at National 4 consist of the following two units:

- Software Design and Development
- Information System Design and Development

Courses at National 5 and Higher consist of the following four units:

- Web Design & Development
- Software Design & Development
- Database Design & Development
- Computer Systems

# Design & Manufacture

National Qualifications in Design and Manufacture provide a broad and practical experience in product design and manufacture, with opportunities for learners to gain skills in designing and communicating design proposals. Learners develop design skills, knowledge and understanding of materials and manufacturing processes, and enhance their creative and practical skills. The Courses build challenging, coherent and enjoyable learner journeys through all levels.



The National 5 Design and Manufacture Course develops skills in design and manufacturing models, prototypes and products, and knowledge and understanding of manufacturing processes and materials. Learners also gain an understanding of the impact of design and manufacturing technologies on our environment and society.

The Higher Design and Manufacture Course develops learners' research skills, idea generation techniques, and ability to read drawings and diagrams. Learners also gain the ability to communicate design ideas and practical details, to evaluate and apply both tangible and subjective feedback, and to devise, plan and develop practical solutions to design opportunities.

## Is this course for me?

This Course is a broad-based qualification, suitable for learners with a general or specific interest in design and technology generally. It is suitable for learners with an interest in product design and manufacture in particular and is suitable for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study in the subject.

The Course is largely learner-centred and includes practical and experiential learning opportunities. The world of design and manufacturing covers a broad spectrum of experiences. Some products are designed to create an emotional or visual impact; others are more functional in their requirements. These facts allow the Course to be flexible in nature and allow scope for personalisation and choice for each learner.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to: create, develop and communicate design proposals; solve design problems in applied contexts; contribute to the evaluation and improvement of design proposals and manufacturing practicalities; and manufacture models, prototypes and products of their design ideas.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following two units:

- Design
- Materials and Manufacturing

Pupils are afforded personalisation and choice throughout the course selecting from a variety of design principles, 2D and 3D modelling techniques and manufacturing methods to complete assignments.

## Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the two units stated above in addition to the Added Value design and practical assignment. These units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam.

National 5 – The learner must complete the coursework assessment consisting of a design assignments (55 marks) and a practical assignment (45marks) and a question paper (80 marks); the course is graded A – D.

Higher – The learner must complete the coursework assessment consisting of a design assignment (90 marks) and a question paper (80 marks); the course is graded A – D.

## English

English is offered at National 1-3, National 4, Literacy 5, National 5 and Higher. All course levels enable learners to listen, talk, read, and write appropriately for different purposes, audiences, and contexts. Learners are given the opportunity to analyse and evaluate many different texts, such as prose fiction and non-fiction, poetry, media, and drama. They develop an understanding of the effect and impact of language and literary techniques, and are also able to create and produce their own written and spoken texts.

All English courses provide learners with valuable communication skills, as well as the ability to think critically and analytically. Learners are also encouraged to question, challenge, and develop their own opinions. Discussion and thoughtful responses are at the heart of all English courses, and learners' confidence and independent learning skills are fostered through whole class discussion, skill-based lessons, and regular, one-to-one feedback.

### Is this course for me?

English provides flexibility, personalisation, and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at different paces. Learners are able to build on prior learning from S1-3 as they develop their literacy, communication skills, and understanding of how language works.

All the courses offer plenty of opportunity for learners to explore their creativity in the creation and production of written and spoken texts. Critical and analytical thinking skills are key to the evaluation and analysis of literature and non-fiction. Learners will explore a wide range of literary texts, as well as regularly reading non-fiction journalism and encountering a number of media texts. Learners are able to enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures, as all courses foster an appreciation of language and literature.

Learners develop their independent working skills through many aspects of all English course levels, and self-motivation and responsibility are key to success. Group work and presentations also allow pupils to build excellent interpersonal and team-working skills. Learners develop lifelong proficiencies in English which are indispensable and which have cross-curricular, far-reaching benefits.

### Recommended Progression:

Course	Recommended entry requirements	Recommended progression
National 2 English	Below Level 2 reading and writing from the junior phase. Or National 1 English.	National 3 English
National 3 English	Level 2 reading and writing from the junior phase. Or National 2 English.	National 4 English
National 4 English and Literacy	Level 3 reading and writing from the junior phase. Or National 3 English.	National 5 English or National 5 Literacy
National 5 Literacy	Level 3 reading and writing and the AVU Plus unit from the junior phase. Or National 4 English.	National 5 English
National 5 English	Level 4 or 5 from the junior phase. Or National 4 English. Or National 5 Literacy.	Higher English
Higher English	National 5 English pass A-C (minimum of a B recommended).	Advanced Higher English





# **Fashion and Textile Technology National 3/4/5**

The Fashion and Textile Technology courses offer opportunities to develop a range of skills, including practical construction skills. This is underpinned with the relevant knowledge of textile properties and technologies required to create fashion/textile items. The course is practical and experiential. Pupils will start at either National 4 or National 5 level depending on ability and progress to Higher level.

## **Is this course for me?**

This Course is designed for those who are interested in Fashion and Textiles and who enjoy being creative with fabric.

Students will develop knowledge of -

Textile properties and characteristics

Textile construction techniques and use of commercial patterns

Understanding of factors that influence fashion and textile choices

Understanding of fashion/textile trends

The ability to plan and make fashion/textile items

## **Course Structure**

There are three Mandatory areas of study

· Textile Technologies · Fashion/Textile Item Development · Fashion and Textile Choices

## **Course Assessment**

National 3 – Learners will be required to successfully pass three units of work based on the three areas of study as detailed above. There will be two practical assignments to be carried out by the learner. The activity will require learners to extend their knowledge, understanding and skills, and to apply them in the production of a textile/fashion item from a range of briefs. Learners will investigate, plan, make and evaluate their chosen textile/fashion item within a given timescale.

National 4 – Learners will be required to successfully pass three units of work based on the three areas of study as detailed above. N4: AVU Practical Assignment The learner will be assessed by a practical activity which is based on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the Course. The activity will require learners to extend their knowledge, understanding and skills, and to apply them in the production of a textile/fashion item from a range of briefs. Learners will investigate, plan, make and evaluate their chosen textile/fashion item within a given timescale.

National 5 - Final Practical and Written Assessment and exam - The learner will be assessed by a written and practical activity which is based on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the Course. The activity will require learners to extend their knowledge, understanding and skills, and to apply them in the production of a textile/fashion item from a range of briefs. Learners will investigate extensively, plan, make and evaluate their chosen more complex textile/fashion item within a given timescale. Within the assessment 50 marks are given to the written element (35%) and 50 marks are given to the practical element (35%).

There is also a 1-hour question paper (30 marks – worth 30%)- the course is graded A-D.

## French

French is offered at National 4, 5 and Higher.

National Qualifications in Modern Languages develop learners' knowledge and understanding of a modern language and cover the contexts of society, learning, employability and culture. Studying a modern language provides learners with the opportunity to develop their reading, listening, talking and writing skills.

National 5 Modern Languages Courses develop literacy skills by giving learners opportunities to read, listen, talk and write in a modern language and to reflect on how this relates to English. These Courses enable learners to understand and use a modern language, to apply their knowledge of a modern language, and to develop planning, research and language skills.

Higher Modern Languages Courses enable learners to read, listen, talk and write in a modern language, and to understand and use a modern language. Learners also develop language skills of translation, and apply knowledge and understanding of a modern language.

### Is this course for me?

The Course provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace. Learners have the opportunity to develop detailed language skills in meaningful real-life contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture.

Learners will develop skills in reading, listening, talking and writing, which are essential for learning, life and work; they will develop an understanding of how language works, use different media effectively for learning and communication and use language to communicate ideas and information.

The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments; to enhance their enjoyment and their understanding of their own and other cultures; to explore the interconnected nature of languages; and to develop independent learning.

Learning a new language will enable learners to make connections with different people and their cultures, play a fuller part as global citizens, reflect, communicate and develop ideas through language, develop a sense of cultural awareness, enhancing their understanding and enjoyment of other cultures and their views and understand and use a wide range of different types of texts in different media.

### Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the two units (Understanding Language and Using Language) in addition to the Added Value assignment. These units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam. The Added Value Unit is recorded.

National 5 – Talking (30Marks) – scaled to 30 marks i.e. 25%, Reading (30 Marks) – scaled to 30 marks i.e. 25%, Listening (20 marks) – scaled to 30 marks i.e. 25%, Writing in exam (20 marks) – scaled to 15 marks i.e. 25%, Writing (assignment carried out within the school session) 20 Marks – scaled to 15 marks i.e. 12.5%

Then all 120 marks are worked out as a percentage to 100%. The course is graded A-D.

Higher – Component 1 – question paper: reading and writing (40 marks), Component 2 – question paper: listening and writing (30 marks), Component 3 – performance: talking (30 marks). The course is graded A-D.



# Geography

National Qualifications in Geography provide a broad range of flexible learning contexts covering physical, human and global geographical environments, and bring together the natural and social sciences.

The courses provide geographical perspectives on important issues concerning the environment, sustainability and citizenship, and offer challenging, coherent and enjoyable journeys for learners who progress through levels. They encourage fieldwork and the use of local environments and the acquisition of geographical skills.

The National 5 Geography course develops a range of geographical skills and techniques. Learners gain a detailed understanding of the ways in which people and the environment interact in response to physical and human processes at local, national, international and global scales.

The Higher Geography Course develops learners' understanding of our changing world and its human and physical processes in local, national, international and global study contexts. Opportunities for practical activities including fieldwork are encouraged, so that learners can interact with their environment.

In today's society, with growing awareness of the impact of human activity upon the environment and scarce resources, the study of Geography foster positive life-long attitudes of environmental stewardship, sustainability and global citizenship. The study of Geography will furnish learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to contribute effectively to their local communities and wider society.

## Is this course for me?

This course is appropriate for a wide range of learners including those who wish to achieve a greater understanding of the environment and their place in it as well as learners who wish to progress to more specialised training or further education or employment.

Learners will develop a range of important and transferrable skills including: using, interpreting, evaluating and analysing a range of geographical information; interpreting and explaining geographical phenomena; using a range of maps and other data to process and communicate geographical information; and researching skills, including fieldwork. Learners will also develop an awareness of a limited range of geographical information systems through ICT or alternative means.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following three units:

- Physical Environments
- Human Environments
- Global Issues

The contexts for study are local, national, international and global. Focus is given to case study areas within both the developed and developing world.

## Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the three units stated above in addition to the Added Value assignment. These units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam.

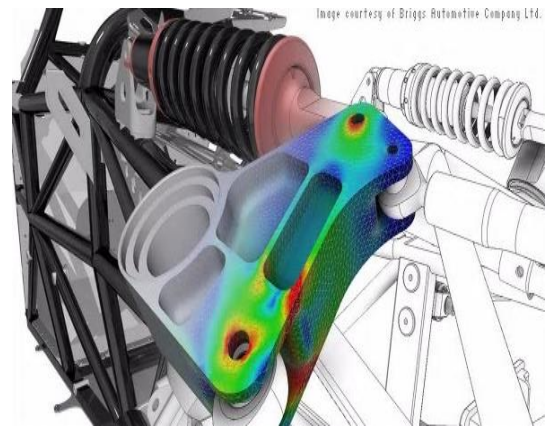
National 5 – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 Marks) and a question paper (80 Marks); the course is graded A-D

Higher – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (30 Marks) and two question papers (100 Marks and 60 Marks respectively); the course is graded A-D.



# Graphic Communication

National Qualifications in Graphic Communication develop skills in graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, graphics materials and software, and build challenging, coherent and enjoyable journeys for learners through all levels. Combining elements of recognised professional standards for graphic communication with graphic design creativity and visual impact, the Courses also provide flexibility and choice in the use of manual and computer-aided graphics.



The National 5 Graphic Communication Course enables learners to develop skills in graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, graphics materials and software. Learners extend and apply knowledge and understanding of graphic communication standards, protocols and conventions, and develop an understanding of the impact of graphic communication technologies on our environment and society.

The Higher Graphic Communication Course provides opportunities for learners to initiate and develop their own ideas graphically. It allows them to develop skills in reading and interpreting graphics produced by others and to continue to develop graphic awareness in often complex graphic situations, expanding their visual literacy.

## Is this course for me?

This Course is a broad-based qualification, suitable for learners with an interest in graphic communication — both digital and paper-based. It is suitable for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study in the subject.

The qualification is largely learner-centred and includes practical and experiential learning opportunities. Because the world of graphic communication covers such a wide variety of styles and modes of communication, there is a broad scope for personalisation and choice within the Course for each learner. On completing the Course, learners will be able to: initiate, develop and communicate ideas graphically; interpret graphic communications initiated by others; use graphic communication equipment, software and materials effectively; and apply knowledge and understanding of graphic communication standards, protocols, and conventions where these apply.

In addition, learners will have developed: design skills, including creativity; an understanding of the impact of graphic communication technologies on our environment and society; and spatial awareness and visual literacy.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following two units:

- 2D Graphic Communication
- 3D and Pictorial Graphic Communication

Pupils are allowed personalisation and choice throughout the course selecting manual or computer based techniques to complete tasks.

## Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the two units stated above in addition to the Added Value assignment. These units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam.

National 5 – The learner must complete the coursework assessment consisting of an assignment (40 marks) and a question paper (80 marks); the course is graded A – D.

Higher – The learner must complete the coursework assessment consisting of an assignment (70 marks) and a question paper (70 marks); the course is graded A – D.

In the assignment learners will draw on their range of skills, knowledge & understanding from the units in order to produce an effective overall response to the assignment brief. The brief for the project will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

# History

National Qualifications in History provide a broad range of flexible learning contexts covering Scottish, British and European and world history in medieval, early modern and modern time frames. The Courses develop a breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of the past, and provide opportunities to consider how political, social, economic and cultural history relates to the world of today.

The National 5 History Course enables learners to develop a range of skills including the ability to apply a detailed historical perspective and evaluate sources in a range of contexts. Learners gain a detailed understanding of the factors contributing to historical events, and their impact. They also develop the skills of investigating historical events and forming views on the basis of evidence, and of explaining and analysing historical events and drawing reasoned conclusions.

The Higher History Course allows learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of the past through the study of Scottish, British, European and world contexts in a variety of time periods. Options cover topics from the medieval, early modern and later modern periods, and include elements of political, social, economic and cultural history.

History is fascinating, eye-opening and jaw-dropping. While factual knowledge is obviously important, History also teaches many skills that can be used at college, university and life in general such as critical thinking, evaluating, essay writing, debating and arguing.

## Is this course for me?

History Courses are relevant for a wide range of learners. This Course is appropriate for those who wish to develop an understanding of history or who are seeking to progress and specialise in further historical study.

Through the successful completion of this Course, learners will develop a range of important and transferable skills, including: commenting on a limited range of sources; presenting detailed information about historical themes and events; and communicating a reasoned conclusion based on evidence.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following three units:

- Historical Study: Scottish (Scottish Wars of Independence)
- Historical Study: British (Atlantic Slave Trade/Ireland 1900-85)
- Historical Study: European and World (Russia)

The contexts for study are local, national, international and global.

## Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the three units stated above in addition to the Added Value assignment. These units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam.

National 5 – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 marks) and a question paper (80 marks); the course is graded A – D.

Higher – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (30 marks) and two question papers (44 marks and 36 marks respectively); the course is graded A – D.



## Practical Cookery (National 3/4/5)

National Qualifications in Practical Cookery develop a range of cookery skills and processes, as well as food preparation techniques.

Planning and producing meals and presenting them appropriately, learners develop understanding of ingredients from a variety of different sources, as well as of their uses and responsible sourcing and sustainability. Learners also develop an understanding of the choice of ingredients and the impact these have on health and wellbeing, as well as their knowledge and understanding of food safety and hygiene practices. The Practical Cookery Course further enhances learners' personal effectiveness in cookery and provides a set of skills for those who wish to progress to further study in the hospitality context.



### Is this course for me?

This Course is designed for those who are interested in food and cooking and who enjoy being creative with food. Learners who have chosen to follow it may wish to utilise their cookery knowledge and skills at home, in the wider community or, ultimately, in the hospitality industry. It is NOT entirely practical, and has a substantial element of theory which is important to consider.

Learners will develop a range of both generic and practical cookery skills, including food preparation techniques and the ability to follow cookery processes; the ability to choose, weigh and measure ingredients and calculate proportions, calculate the cost of ingredients and portions; and the ability to follow recipes to produce dishes, and to evaluate the product.

Learners will also develop the ability to plan and produce meals and to present them appropriately; the ability to work safely and hygienically; and planning, organisational and time management skills in the cookery context. The Course will support learners' personal and social development and will serve them very well in their everyday lives, as well as preparing them for further training and employment in a wide range of hospitality-related areas.

### Course Structure

The National 3, 4 and 5 course consists of the following 3 areas:

- **Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes**  
*Learners will be required to provide evidence of their: cookery skills, food preparation techniques and ability to follow cookery processes in the preparation of dishes.*
- **Understanding and Using Ingredients**  
*Learners will be required to provide evidence of their ability to: apply their understanding of a range of ingredients and select appropriate ingredients and use them in the preparation of dishes.*
- **Organisational Skills for Cooking**  
*Learners will be required to provide evidence of their ability to: follow recipes and implement a time plan to produce dishes and carry out an evaluation of the dishes.*

### Course Assessment

The learner will be assessed by a practical activity drawing on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed across the Course. The activity will require learners to extend cookery-related knowledge, understanding and skills, and to apply them in the production of a meal to a given specification.

National 3 – Learners will be required to successfully pass three units of work based on the three areas of study as detailed above.

National 4 – Learners will be required to successfully pass three units of work based on the three areas of study as detailed above. In addition, learners will plan, prepare and cook a two-course meal for a given number of people within 1 hour 30 minutes and present it appropriately.

National 5 – The coursework assessment consists of a practical activity (100 marks – worth 75%) where learners will plan, prepare and cook a three course meal for a given number of people within 2 hours 30 minutes and present it appropriately. There is also a 1 hour question paper (30 marks – worth 25%); the course is graded A-D.

It is important to note that the National 4 unit assessments are undertaken with *minimal* teacher guidance and at National 5 the assessments are with *no* teacher guidance. All areas must be carried out safely and hygienically.

# Mathematics

National Qualifications in Mathematics are designed to motivate and challenge learners by enabling them to select and apply mathematical techniques in a variety of mathematical and real-life situations. These Courses equip learners with the skills needed to interpret and analyse information, simplify and solve problems, and make informed decisions.

The National 5 Mathematics Course enables learners to select and apply mathematical techniques in a variety of mathematical and real-life situations. Learners interpret, communicate and manage information in mathematical form.

The Higher Mathematics Course enables learners to select and apply mathematical techniques in a variety of mathematical situations. Learners interpret, communicate and manage information in mathematical form.

## Is this course for me?

Mathematics is rich and stimulating. It engages and fascinates learners of all ages, interests and abilities. Learning mathematics develops logical reasoning, analysis, problem-solving skills, creativity, and the ability to think in abstract ways. It uses a universal language of numbers and symbols, which allows us to communicate ideas in a concise, unambiguous and rigorous way.

Mathematics equips us with many of the skills required for life, learning and work. Understanding the part that mathematics plays in almost all aspects of life is crucial. This reinforces the need for mathematics to play an integral part in lifelong learning and be appreciated for the richness it brings.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following three units:

### National 4/5

- Expressions & Formulae
- Relationships
- Numeracy / Applications

### Higher

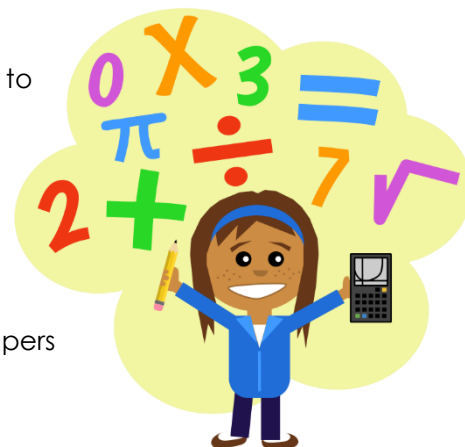
- Expressions & Formulae
- Relationships & Calculus
- Applications

## Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the three units stated above in addition to the Added Value assessment. These units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam.

National 5 – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the course assessment. The course assessment consists of two question papers (110 marks); the course is graded A – D.

Higher – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the course assessment. The course assessment consists of two question papers (130 marks); the course is graded A – D.



## Modern Studies

National Qualifications in Modern Studies develop learners' knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and social issues in local, national and international contexts. Learners also engage with discussions about the changing nature of political systems through studying democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom.

The National 4 and 5 Modern Studies Course gives learners a detailed understanding of the democratic process and of social and economic issues at local, national and international levels.

The Higher Modern Studies Course develops learners' knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and social issues in local, national and international contexts. In these contexts, learners develop an awareness of the social and political issues they will meet in their lives.

Learners will develop their knowledge of the political and social world around us and how key events can impact upon our lives.

### Is this course for me?

The Course is appropriate for a wide range of learners, from those who wish to achieve a greater understanding of contemporary society and their place in it, to learners who wish to progress to more specialised training or further education or employment.

Through the successful completion of this Course, learners will develop a range of important and transferable skills including: researching, understanding and using a range of information/evidence on contemporary issues; evaluating information/ evidence in order to give detailed explanations while detecting exaggeration and selectivity in the use of facts; making decisions and drawing conclusions; constructing detailed arguments in a balanced and structured way; and communicating, by a variety of means, views, opinions, decisions and conclusions based on evidence.

### Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following three units:

- Democracy in Scotland
- Social Issues in the United Kingdom
- International Issues

Pupils are allowed personalisation and choice throughout the course selecting manual or computer based techniques to complete tasks.

### Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the three units stated above in addition to an Added Value assignment. These units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam.

National 5 – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 marks) and a question paper (80 marks); the course is graded A – D.

Higher – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (30 marks) and two question papers (52 marks and 28 marks respectively); the course is graded A – D.





# Music

National Qualifications in Music provide learners with a broad, practical experience of performing and creating music. Learners develop performing skills in solo and/or group settings using two selected instruments or one instrument and voice. These Courses also enable learners to develop composing skills and broaden their understanding of music concepts and styles.

The National 5 Music Course enables learners to perform challenging music, create original music using compositional methods and music concepts, and broaden their knowledge and understanding of music and musical literacy. The Course also enables learners to develop knowledge of the social and cultural factors that influence music.

The Higher Music Course provides a broad practical experience of performing and creating music and develops related knowledge and understanding of music. Learners develop their skills and creative capabilities as musicians, and gain the skills they need to perform and create music and to confidently discriminate between music concepts and styles.

## Is this course for me?

The Course is a broad-based qualification. It is suitable for learners with an interest in developing and extending their applied musical skills and understanding of music, and for learners with a more specific interest in particular aspects of music. It could also provide a pathway for those who want to progress to higher levels of study.

The Course is practical and experiential and there is considerable scope for personalisation and choice through the activities of performing, creating and understanding music. This makes the Course accessible as it takes account of the needs of different learners and can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learner needs, interests and aspirations.

On completing the course, learners will be able to: perform a programme of music with accuracy and maintaining musical flow; create their own original music; self-reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others; listen to music with awareness, understanding and discrimination; and improve their musical creativity and performing skills by critically evaluate their own work and the work of others.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following three units:

- **Performing Skills**  
*Pupils choose to learn two instruments or one instrument and voice. The performing skills which develop are then utilised in both solo and group settings providing a broad range of experiences. Pupils will be encouraged throughout the process to evaluate their success and identify steps towards improvement.*
- **Composing Skills**  
*Pupils create original pieces of music whilst learning straightforward compositional methods and music concepts. This allows pupils to understand the creative process and provides the opportunity for expressing themselves through the music they create.*
- **Understanding Music**  
*Pupils develop their understanding of the social and cultural factors, which influence music through the study of a range of musical styles. Pupils will develop their knowledge of musical signs, symbols and concepts through a range of listening and musical literacy exercises, which develop their critical and analytical listening skills.*

## Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the three units stated above in addition to the Added Value assignment. These units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam.

National 5 – The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (30 marks), a question paper (40 marks) and a performance (60 marks); the course is graded A-D.

Higher – The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of a performance (60 marks) and a question paper (40 marks); the course is graded A – D.

The performance is externally assessed in February/March by an SQA visiting assessor whilst the question paper is completed in the May as part of the main diet of SQA exams.



# Physical Education

National Qualifications in Physical Education focus on developing and improving practical and performance skills in physical activities. These Courses provide opportunities to develop team building skills and enhance learners' ability to compete, co-operate and collaborate.

The National 5 Physical Education Course allows learners to develop and demonstrate a comprehensive range of movement and performance skills in physical activities. Learners also develop an increased understanding of the important link between fitness and good health.

The Higher Physical Education Course allows learners to develop and demonstrate a broad and comprehensive range of complex movement and performance skills in challenging contexts. Learners also analyse a performance, understand what is required to develop it, and apply this knowledge to their own performance.

## Is this course for me?

This course is suitable for all learners who have an interest in and enthusiasm for developing their movement and performance skills in physical activities and who enjoy learning in practical contexts. On successful completion of the Course, learners will be able to progress to the Higher Physical Education Course, further education courses or training and employment.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 4, National 5 and Higher consist of the following two components:

- Performance Skills  
*In this Unit, the learner will be required to demonstrate their ability to perform in physical activities by developing a broad range of movement and performance skills. They will provide evidence of selecting, using, demonstrating and adapting these skills in a safe and effective way. The learner will demonstrate consistency in their control and fluency during movement.*
- Factors Impacting on Performance  
*In this Unit, the learner will be required to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and application of a range of factors that impact positively and negatively on performance in physical activities. The learner will consider the effects of mental, emotional, social and physical factors on their own performance. This understanding will help to develop the learner's ability to plan for, record, monitor and evaluate performance development.*

## Course Assessment

National 4 – The learner must pass the two components stated above in addition to the Added Value assignment. These components are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and there is no final exam.

National 5 – The learner must complete the two components stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of two, one off performances (60 marks) and a portfolio (60 marks); the course is graded A – D.

Higher – The coursework assessment consists of two one off performances (60 marks) and an examination question paper (50 marks); the course is graded A – D.



# Physics

Our National Qualifications in Physics give learners an insight into the underlying nature of our world and its place in the universe. From the sources of the energy we use, to the exploration of space, Physics covers a range of applications of the relationships that have been discovered through experiment and calculation.

The National 5 Physics Course enables learners to develop a deeper understanding of physics concepts and the ability to describe and interpret physical phenomena using mathematical skills.

The Higher Physics Course develops learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for physics in a range of contexts. The skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are developed throughout the Course, and the relevance of physics is highlighted by the study of the applications of physics in everyday contexts.

## Course Structure

Courses at National 5 and Higher consist of the following three units (each with different content):

### National 5

- Electricity and Energy - conservation of energy; electrical charge carriers & electric fields; electrical & electronic circuits; specific heat capacity; gas laws & the kinetic model.
- Waves and Radiation - wave parameters & behaviours; electromagnetic spectrum; light; nuclear radiation.
- Dynamics and Space - vectors & scalars; motion graphs; acceleration; Newton's laws; projectile motion; space exploration & cosmology.

### Higher

- Our Dynamic Universe - kinematics; dynamics; gravitation; special relativity & cosmology.
- Electricity - current; potential difference; power; resistance; AC; DC; internal resistance; capacitors; conduction; semiconductors & insulators.
- Particles and Waves - standard model of the atom; force on charged particles; nuclear reactions; wave particle duality; interference & diffraction; refraction of light & spectra.

## Course Assessment

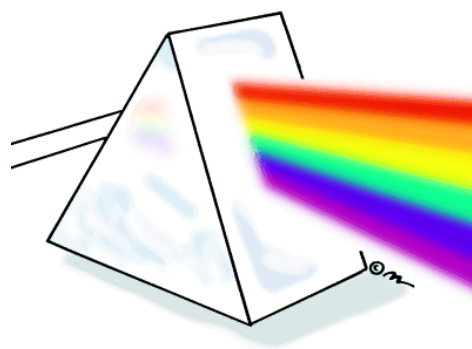
To be successful at National 5 there is an expectation that you have performed to a high standard in the Physics topics within the S1-3 BGE course.

National 5 –The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 marks) and a question paper (135 marks); the course is graded A – D.

### Higher

Entry is at the discretion of the school, but you would normally be expected to have achieved an A or B pass at National 5 Physics.

The learner must complete the three units stated above and pass the coursework assessment. The coursework assessment consists of an assignment (20 marks) and a question paper (135 marks); the course is graded A – D.



## **Environmental Science**

There is also Environmental Science on offer to all S2 pupils.

Please visit the SQA Website for more information about this subject

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45726.html>

