



# S4 Course Choice Booklet



**Lochside** Academy

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## General Information

S4 marks the beginning of the “Senior Phase” of a pupil’s education, having followed a Broad General Education from S1-3. It is a time when pupils will undertake programmes of learning, often extending through S5 and S6 and beyond. By offering a range of qualifications, skills, experiences and opportunities from S4-6, pupils should be able to tailor their Senior Phase to enable them to progress on their chosen career or further education pathway.

## National Qualifications

The table below summarises Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) National Qualification levels.

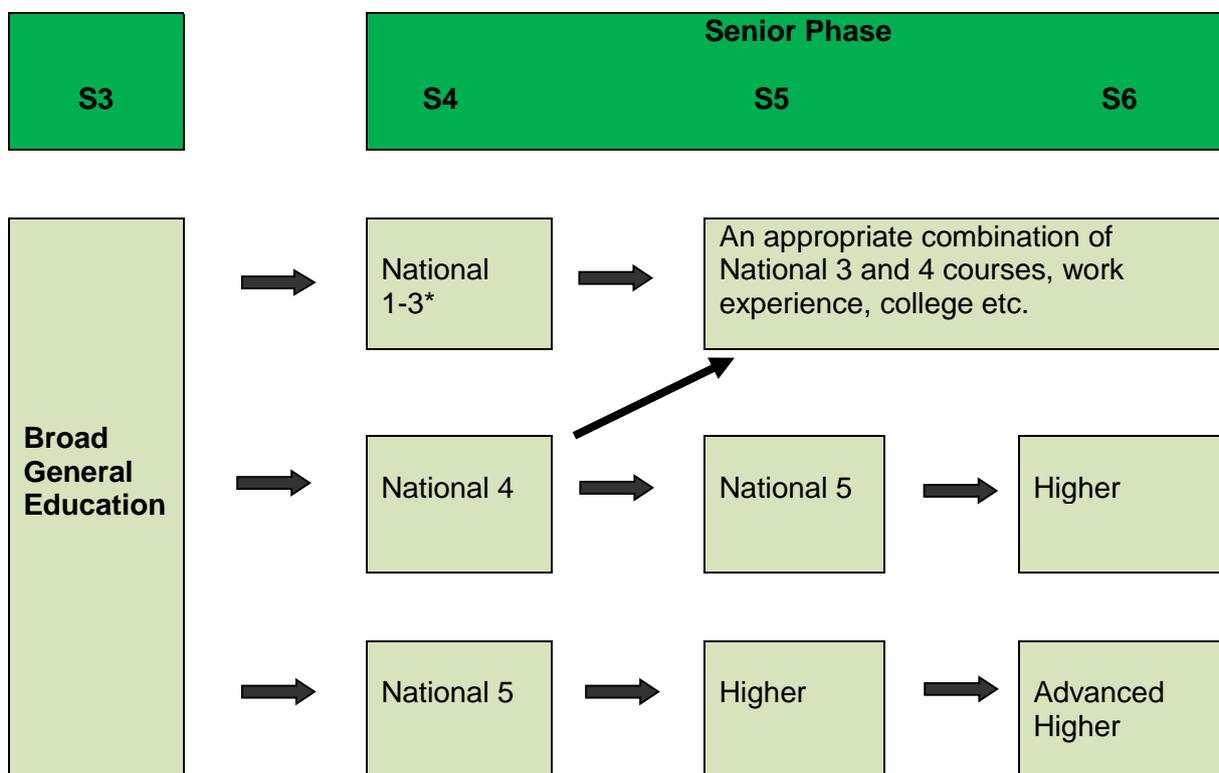
National Qualification	External Exam
National 1 and 2	No – internally assessed
National 3	No – internally assessed
National 4	No – internally assessed
National 5	Yes Graded A-D
Higher	Yes Graded A-D
Advanced Higher (revised) Available from 2015	Yes Graded A-D

Work which is internally assessed by staff is collated and submitted to the SQA in accordance with SQA deadlines.

Examinations for National 5 courses are sat in the summer of the year of study, i.e. end of S4.



The following table illustrates how pupils could progress from S3 to S6.



All courses leading to qualifications contain work that is assessed and marked throughout the year by teachers as well as work directly submitted to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Qualifications at National 4 and below do not have an external examination. Instead, pupils must demonstrate that they have achieved the outcomes required by the SQA by completing work which is internally assessed. Results are then submitted to the SQA.

Courses at National 5 and Higher levels will still include work which is internally assessed by teachers but pupils will also be expected to pass an additional assessment, usually a question paper and / or an assignment which will be marked externally by the SQA.



## How to Make Your Choices

Information on planning and choosing your subjects from S4 to S6 is widely available in the current school. You can talk to subject teachers/Faculty Heads as well as Guidance Staff and the Careers Adviser. It is very important that you do discuss your future career plans to make the best of your time in the Senior Phase of your education. It would also be useful to consider the progress you have made in subjects studies so far. You could look at recent tracking reports to help you to do this.

In S4 all pupils make six subject choices from the range of National Qualifications on offer. Two of these will be English/ESOL and Maths. In addition to this pupils will also follow the core subjects – PE, RMPS and PSE.

It is strongly recommended that S4 pupils continue to study subjects at which they have performed best throughout S1 – S3. National Qualifications require commitment from pupils to work hard both in school and when working independently to complete coursework at home.

Details of the courses on offer for S4 are contained later in this booklet.

## Completing the Course Choice and Career Pathway Planning Form

To help you make the best choices read the information in this course choice booklet carefully. It tells you about what assessments to expect in courses, course content as well as homework and progression routes for further study.

- Start by writing in your current subjects into the S3 Subjects box. From them choose the four subjects you wish to continue to study in S4.
- Look for your subjects on the S4 Subjects sheet and identify in which columns your subjects will run.
- Write the name of the subject and your intended level of study alongside the correct letter in the S4 Subjects box. You must choose **one subject** from each of the columns C, D, E and F.
- You should then complete the other boxes to show your future plans for S5/6 and your intended career.
- Sign and date the form, ask a parent or guardian to do the same then return the form to your **Guidance Teacher**.

Late submission of the Course Choice and Career Pathway Planning Form may result in your course requests being considered after those of other pupils.



## Content

Pupils produce a body of practical and written material within the study of Expressive and Design units. Pupils will develop and refine Expressive and Design ideas using routine problem solving and reflective skills as well as communicate thoughts, feelings and ideas effectively when planning, producing and presenting creative ideas. Learners on the Course will develop knowledge of art and design practice and a range of practical media handling skills in both expressive and design contexts. Learners will investigate and analyse how artists and designers have used materials, techniques and/or technology in their work, before experimenting with and using these when developing their ideas.

In Expressive, learners will select a theme within the topic of Still Life or Landscape and produce a folio of source material, development work and a final outcome. In Design, learners select a discipline, such as fashion, graphics or product, and produce a folio of source material, development work and a final design solution.

*Art & Design Studies:* Learners are asked to be aware of the works of artists and designers showing a degree of analysis with respect to how they could influence their own work.

## Skills

The skills of confidence, creativity, problem solving, use of technology, time management and organisation as well as engaging with literacy and numeracy and developing methods of investigating, researching, analysing and evaluating.

## Assessment

*National 4* - Learners are internally assessed on a pass or fail basis by producing expressive and design practical folios, plus a written Art and Design studies submission.

*National 5* - Learners produce the same as National 4 but in greater depth of understanding with written work being used to answer questions under exam conditions.

*National 5* Design and Expressive folios are completed in class and sent to SQA to be assessed externally. This is worth 80 % of the final mark. *National 5* Art & Design Studies content is assessed by a 90 minute written examination on the work of artists and designers. This is worth 20 % of the final mark.

## Homework

Regular homework tasks are given with regards to written or practical tasks in response to folio and course demands. It is also expected that learners should be willing to work out with class times (study periods, lunchtime, after school) in order to complete folios to standard.

## Progression

Progression to *National 5* from *National 4* Art and Design. Progression to *Higher* Art and Design from *National 5* Art and Design.



## Content

National 4 Drama provides opportunities for learners to develop skills creating and presenting drama.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- generate and communicate thoughts and ideas when creating drama
- develop a knowledge and understanding of a range of social and cultural influences on drama
- develop a range of skills in presenting drama
- develop knowledge, understanding and the use of a range of production skills when presenting drama
- explore form, structure, genre and style

The course consists of two core units as well as an added value unit.

### Unit 1: Drama Production Skills

During this unit pupils work in groups on two scripted extracts. They are expected to act in their first text and provide technical support for another group in their second in one of the following areas – costume/set/props/lighting. They must complete a portfolio based on both their acting and technical texts.

### Unit 2: Drama Skills

Pupils work in groups to develop their own drama in response to a range of stimuli. As a group they are responsible for all aspects of their own performance. They must complete a logbook throughout the unit to document the progress of creating, developing and presenting their own drama.

## Assessment

All units are internally assessed and verified.

National 4 pupils are assessed internally on a practical performance and the completion of a logbook/portfolio for the Added Value Unit. There is no written paper for National 4.

## Homework

Pupils must ensure that all work is kept up to date including weekly logs for each of the units. Pupils will need to ensure that they are regularly revising over drama vocabulary and learning lines at home. Pupils are also required to complete a variety of written exercises such as character tasks, further research of texts and topics and evaluative responses to performances.

## Progression

Upon successful completion of National 4, pupils can continue to further study Drama at National 5 level.



## Content

National 5 Drama enables candidates to develop and use a range of drama skills and production skills.

Candidates develop practical skills in creating and presenting drama and knowledge and understanding of cultural and social influences on drama. They analyse and evaluate how the use of self-expression, language and movement can develop their ideas for drama. They also develop critical-thinking skills as they investigate, develop and apply a range of drama skills and production skills.

There are no formal units to be completed throughout the year, however pupils are expected to be able to engage fully with the materials covered in class at National 5 level.

## Assessment

- External Examination Paper (60 marks) Scaled to 40 %  
The question paper consists of two sections:  
Section 1 - assesses the candidate's ability to evaluate their own work and the work of others.  
Section 2 -assesses the candidate's ability to respond to stimuli and create their own piece of drama suitable for performance.  
Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of both process and performance. They are expected to use drama terminology throughout.
- Preparation for performance (10 marks)  
Preparation for performance will include research on their chosen text and the processes used to reach their acting or design concept for the performance.
- Performance (50 marks)  
Pupils will present to an SQA visiting assessor in either an acting or design role.

Acting candidates should have interaction with at least one other character in a performance lasting a minimum of five minutes.

Design candidates must carry out their pre- show checks/ application of their design to the assessor as well as preparing a portfolio of their ideas and progress.

## Homework

Pupils will need to ensure that they are regularly revising over lines at home. Pupils are also required to complete character tasks, further research of texts, practice questions and evaluative responses to performances.

## Progression

There are opportunities to continue further study of Drama at Higher level.

Recommended entry – minimum of a C at National 5.



## Content

**Performing Skills** – Learners will develop performing skills on two selected instruments, or on one instrument and voice. They will perform level-specific music (Grade 1 for National 3, Grade 2 for National 4 and Grade 3 for National 5) with sufficient accuracy and will maintain the musical flow. Learners will, through regular practice and self-reflection, develop technical and musical performing skills.

**Composing Skills** –Learners will experiment with, and use a range of compositional methods and music concepts to realise their intentions when creating original music. Learners will self-reflect on the impact and effectiveness of their creative choices and decisions, developing their understanding of how composers create music in different ways and what influences their work. One composition assignment will be selected to send away to the SQA to be assessed.

**Understanding Music** –Through listening, learners will develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of level-specific music concepts, and music literacy. They will identify and recognise specific music styles and concepts, and music signs and symbols used in music notation.

## Skills

Pupils will develop a range of skills in this course, in particular:

- Confidence, Commitment, Patience, Creativity, Problem Solving, Coordination, Flexibility, Team work, Time management and Organisation, Literacy and Numeracy, Evaluating and Analysing

## Assessment

National 4 pupils will complete an added value assessment in school on a pass/fail basis. They are required to perform an 8 minute performance to the teacher, which will be internally assessed.

At National 5 pupils are graded based on their final performing exam (50 %), listening paper (35 %) and composition assignment (15 %). Pupils are required to perform an 8 minute performance to an outside SQA examiner, anytime from the middle of February to the end of March.

## Homework

Pupils will be required to do regular instrumental practice at home and in school, along with musical literacy homework, composing tasks, research tasks, website revision, practice questions and performance evaluations.

## Progression

There are opportunities to continue further study of Music at Higher level.

Recommended entry – a minimum of a C at National 5.



## **Content and Skills**

The purpose of the National 4/5 Hospitality: Practical Cookery course is to provide pupils with the opportunity to develop practical and technological skills to enable pupils who wish to pursue a career in hospitality with a basic grounding for further study at College. There are 3 main areas of study: Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes; Understanding and Using Ingredients; Organisation of Cookery Skills.

This course aims to:

- Develop life skills through practical activities where you will be able to prepare and cook food for yourself and others and organise your time and work efficiently
- Understand the relationship between health and food choice and why the responsible sourcing of ingredients is of vital importance in today's world
- Develop an understanding of how to prepare and present food to a professional standard

## **Assessment**

Practical and theoretical work continuously assessed throughout the course

National 4

- The final assessment for the National 4 course will take the form of a practical assignment carried out during the 'Added Value Unit' and internally assessed written work

National 5

The final assessment for the National 5 course is divided into 2 parts

- Practical cookery assignment devised by SQA (75 % mark allocation) undertaken within school under strict assessment conditions which is usually comprised of cooking a 3 course meal within 2 hours and 30 minutes excluding preparation time
- Externally assessed question paper devised by SQA (25 % mark allocation) on all aspects of the theoretical aspects of the course (understanding and using ingredients, costing exercise, evaluative questions). Requisitioning of resources for the final practical exam and preparation of a timeplan is now also undertaken under exam conditions and sent to the SQA for final marking

## **Homework**

Homework may take the form of planning exercises, research, revision for written assessments and consolidation of practical skills through carrying out food preparation techniques at home

## **Progression**

National 5 Hospitality: Practical Cake Craft

National 4/5 Health and Food Technology



### Content and Skills

The purpose of the National 4/5 Health and Food Technology course is to provide pupils with the opportunity to develop practical and technological skills to make informed food, lifestyle and consumer choices.

The course is made up of 3 mandatory units:

**Food for Health** - Pupils will develop basic knowledge of relationships between health, food, current dietary advice, nutrition and dietary needs and their impacts on health at different stages in life.

**Food Product Development** - Pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of the functional properties of ingredients in food and their use in creating new food products

**Contemporary Food Issues** - Develop basic knowledge and understanding of current factors affecting food, lifestyle and wider consumer choices as well as the skills required to apply their knowledge in practical contexts.

### Assessment

Candidates must show that they have the knowledge and understanding required to meet the standard set by SQA

All levels: Internally assessed closed book end of unit assessments based on past paper questions

National 4 - The final assessment for the National 4 course will take the form of an internally assessed assignment carried out during the 'Added Value Unit' (subject to verification by SQA)

National 5- The final assessment for National 5 course is divided into 2 parts

- Self-directed assignment (50 % mark allocation)  
Learners will produce a food product in response to a given brief by identifying specification points; producing ideas; making the product; and reflect on how the product meet the needs of the brief
- Question paper devised by SQA (50 % mark allocation)  
Within the question paper, there will be a range of question types which will ask learners to state, name, identify, describe, explain and evaluate

### Homework

Homework will be issued on a weekly basis and will focus on past paper questions, research and investigations in order to enhance knowledge and understanding in all units of work

### Progression

- Higher Health and Food Technology
- National 4/5 Hospitality: Practical Cookery
- National 5 Hospitality: Practical Cake Craft



## Content and Skills

At both National 4 and 5:

Pupils further develop their knowledge of Factors that Impact on Performance: Physical, Social, Mental and Emotional.

Pupils develop knowledge of the underpinning concept to designing a training programme.

Pupils are supported in designing and carrying out an individually specific training programmes.

Pupils develop their evaluation and analytical skills required to achieve marks in assessments.

### Assessment:

Performance – pupils prepare for and perform two performances. This is worth 50 % of the course mark

Portfolio – Written assessment based on pupil's designing, adapting and evaluating a training programme to develop their performance in 1 activity. This is worth 50 % of course mark and is externally marked by the SQA.

### Homework:

Weekly homework is issued to develop pupil's written style and understanding of assessment questions to enable them to access 50 % of the course marks.

Preparation for the Portfolio Assessment.

### Progression within Senior Phase:

Pupils achieving National 4 could progress to National 5.

Pupils achieving National 5 at grade C or above could progress to Higher.

All levels could progress to the Sports Leadership Course.



### Content

The National 5 course includes three distinct units.

The first is an exploration of a **World Religion**. For this unit pupils will study the significance and impact of the beliefs and practices of **Judaism**. The second unit is a study of **Morality & Belief** of the **Environment and Global Issues**. Pupils will examine religious and non-religious responses to matter such as poverty, trade, aid, global warming, depletion of resources and come to their own conclusions based on the evidence they have examined. In the **Religious & Philosophical Questions** unit pupils will explore scientific and religious responses the question **“What are the Origins of the Universe and Life?”** We will examine the challenges that scientific discoveries present to Christian beliefs surrounding these questions.

There is also an assignment which requires pupils to investigate a topic of their choice using the skills acquired within this subject. After a period of research and development, pupils will have one hour in class to write up their findings under exam conditions.

### Skills

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies develops excellent transferable skills that are of use in a wide variety of careers. The course develops a range of cognitive skills. It encourages active learning in the process of investigating religious, moral and philosophical issues. Pupils will learn to express viewpoints and have the opportunity for personal reflection. They will develop a wide range of important and transferable skills including accurate recording of information, researching resources, analysing and evaluating beliefs and values, and expressing reasoned personal opinions in a variety of contexts.

### Assessment

The exam lasts for period of 2 hours 20 minutes, is externally marked and has 80 marks available. It is worth 80 % of the overall course award.

The assignment is externally marked and has 20 marks available. It is worth 20 % of the overall course award.

### Homework

Homework will be issued regularly and will take a variety of formats including but not limited to exam style questions and preparation for learning checks. There is the expectation that pupils will be regularly reviewing course content using Google Classroom alongside their notes.

### Progression

Success at National 5 will allow the pupil to progress to Higher RMPS.



**Content**

Learners will study a variety of texts throughout the year. These include fiction, non-fiction and film. Learners will also further develop their writing skills, producing a number of pieces including personal, creative, persuasive and informative.

Learners will be encouraged to work individually, in pairs and in groups to improve their language skills in a variety of situations.

**Skills**

Taking account of prior learning, all learners will have the opportunity to develop their communication skills through Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking.

Learners will develop their ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings, and respond to those of other people.

**Assessment**

Internal assessment of 3 units:

- Understanding Language (Reading and Listening)
- Producing Language (Writing and Talking)
- Literacy

**Homework**

Regular reading of a variety of texts is expected of all learners.

Learners may be given homework which arises out of the ongoing work of the class. This may include finishing off a task started in class, preparing an individual talk, redrafting a piece of work done in class.

**Progression**

Successful completion of National 3 will meet the entry requirements for National 4.



**Content**

Learners will study a variety of texts throughout the year. These include fiction, non-fiction and film. Learners will also further develop their writing skills, producing a number of pieces including personal, creative, persuasive and informative.

Learners will be encouraged to work individually, in pairs and in groups to improve their language skills in a variety of situations.

**Skills**

Taking account of prior learning, all learners will have the opportunity to develop their communication skills through Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking.

Due to the nature of the course, skills in independent learning, problem solving and critical thinking will also be developed.

**Assessment**

Internal assessment of 4 units:

- Analysis and Evaluation (Reading and Listening)
- Creation and Production (Writing and Talking)
- Literacy

Added Value Assignment (Planning and Research skills; integrating and applying all language skills)

**Homework**

Regular reading of a variety of texts is expected of all learners.

Learners may be given homework which arises out of the ongoing work of the class. This may include finishing off a task started in class, preparing an individual talk, redrafting a piece of work done in class.

**Progression**

The quality of work produced, along with attitude and effort, demonstrating more than the basic requirement, will show potential for National 5.

Successful completion of National 4 is also an excellent foundation for progression onto vocational college courses.



**Content**

Learners will study a variety of texts throughout the year. These include fiction, non-fiction and film. Learners will also further develop their writing skills, producing pieces within the creative and discursive categories.

Learners will be encouraged to work individually, in pairs and in groups to improve their language skills in a variety of situations.

The course develops awareness of the complexities of language and a high level of analytical thinking and understanding of the impact of language.

**Skills**

Taking account of prior learning, all learners will have the opportunity to develop their communication skills through Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking.

Due to the nature of the course, skills in independent learning, problem solving and critical thinking will also be developed.

**Assessment**

External assessment:

- Portfolio (2 pieces of writing – one creative and one discursive) worth 30 % of grade

External Examination:

- Paper One – Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation worth 30 % of grade
- Paper Two – Critical Reading (One critical essay and Scottish set text questions) worth 40 % of grade

**Homework**

Learners may be given homework which arises out of the ongoing work of the class. This may include finishing off a task started in class, preparing an individual talk, redrafting a piece of work done in class, or using the SCHOLAR system.

There is an expectation of ongoing revision of course materials and personal reading of a variety of texts.

**Progression**

A National 5 pass at grades A or B is required for entry into Higher English.



### Content

This course is designed for bilingual learners whose first language is not English. It focuses on the study of English within the context of 'everyday life', specifically: work, study, community and social situations. ESOL aims to equip learners with the skills and vocabulary required to gain employment and to undertake further study.

Entry to this course is normally by recommendation. Individual circumstances are taken into account.

### Skills

Pupils study and develop skills across 4 areas:

- Writing
- Reading
- Speaking
- Listening

### Assessment

#### *National 3 & 4*

These qualifications are internally assessed and both consist of two units:

1. ESOL for Everyday Life
2. ESOL in Context (Work and Study)

#### *National 5*

This qualification contains the following units:

1. ESOL for Everyday Life
2. ESOL in Context (Work and Study)

For *National 5*, speaking is assessed internally in the school. Candidates are also required to sit an external examination to achieve a full course award. The examination papers assess:

- Reading and Writing
- Listening

### Homework

Homework is issued weekly and focuses on the development of reading and writing.

### Progression within Senior Phase:

ESOL is available for study at National 3, 4, 5 and Higher levels.

The level at which pupils are entered will depend on their level of English.



### **Content**

Courses in the modern languages of French and Spanish build on the language learning skills developed in the Broad General Education phase in the contexts of 'Society', 'Learning', 'Employability' and 'Culture'.

The courses are made up of two mandatory Units plus an Added Value Unit.

- 1) Understanding Language - developing the skills of Reading and Listening
- 2) Using Language - developing the skills of Talking and Writing

Added Value Unit – combining all skills in an extended task

### **Skills**

The courses provide learners with the opportunities to

- develop more detailed skills in Reading, Listening, Talking and Writing
- develop understanding of how language works
- use different media effectively for learning and communication
- use language to communicate ideas and information
- enhance their understanding and enjoyment of their own and other cultures

The National 4 courses also develop the skills of creative and critical thinking and encourages pupils to become independent learners.

### **Assessment**

National 4 is internally assessed on a pass / fail basis with assessments covering the four skills and the range of contexts.

For the Added Value Unit students will investigate and report on a topic in the foreign language. Part 1 is to read and show understanding of texts on the topic and part 2 is to give a short presentation in the foreign language on the topic and then respond to follow up questions about the topic in the foreign language.

### **Homework**

Regular homework will be issued consisting of a variety of tasks – e.g. vocabulary learning, preparation for Talking and Writing tasks, reading exercises, and online language learning work.

Learners are expected to keep up-to-date with new vocabulary and grammar on a regular basis.

### **Progression within Senior Phase**

Successful completion of a National 4 course will enable progression to National 5.



## Content

Both the National 4 and 5 courses cover algebra, geometry, statistics, number work and trigonometry.

The national 4 course is made up of 3 units and an added value assessment. If pupils are not able to pass these they will be moved to National 3.

The National 5 course is made up of 3 units and the final exam.

## Skills

Pupils will learn successful study skills such as self-testing, interleaving and spaced practice.

## Assessment

### National 4

3 unit assessments

- Numeracy
- Relationships
- Expressions and Formulae

Also an added value assessment needed to be awarded an overall National 4 pass

### National 5

3 units

- Expressions and formulae
- Relationships
- Applications

Unit assessments are no longer mandatory but may be sat by some classes. There will also be regular low stakes quizzes and longer termly assessments.

The final exam has to be passed in order to gain a qualification at National 5.

## Homework

Regular short nightly homework or longer homework as necessary.

## Progression

Completion of completion of National 4 leads to National 5 and National 5 leads to Higher



## Content

The National 5 course consists of three topics:

- Cell Biology: includes plant, animal and microbial cell structure; the basic processes of life that occur within cells; genetic engineering and the use of microbes.
- Multicellular Organisms: studies the major systems and organs in plants and animals to understand how they keep organisms alive individually and by working together.
- Life on Earth: a study of ecosystems and how organisms interact within them; the methods used to sample organisms; how species evolved and the impact man is having on the environment.

## Skills

Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of biology by making statements, describing information, providing explanations and integrating knowledge; applying knowledge of biology to new situations, interpreting information and solving problems; planning and designing experiments to test given hypotheses or to illustrate particular effects; carrying out experimental procedures safely, recording observations and collecting data; selecting information and presenting information appropriately in a variety of forms; processing information (using calculations and units, where appropriate); making predictions and generalisations based on evidence/information; drawing valid conclusions and giving explanations supported by evidence/justification; identifying a sources of uncertainties and suggesting improvements to experiments; communicating findings/information

Skills in numeracy will be also be addressed and thinking skills will be developed through analysing and applying knowledge.

## Assessment

The SQA reviewed end-of-unit assessments and removed them but as a minimum there will be internal unit tests to monitor progress. At least one practical will be used along with research to produce a formal written report which will be marked externally.

There is a final written external examination.

## Homework

In addition to pupils regularly looking over their classwork, pupils will be given a variety of tasks regularly. This will involve practice questions, pre-reading material for class, researching information or producing a report or presentation. The task may be issued electronically or on paper.

## Progression

Gaining a pass in this course will allow entry to Higher Human Biology or another N5 science.



## Content

The National 5 course is organised into three Units:

- Chemical Changes and Structure – Investigate chemical reactions; how chemicals bond together; atomic structure and chemistry, acid and base chemistry.
- Nature's Chemistry – Extraction, purification and use of fossil fuels; their environmental impact; extraction of useful chemicals from plants; production of consumer products from chemicals
- Chemistry in Society – Metals – extraction, properties and uses; batteries and metal chemistry; Plastics; environmental monitoring; fertiliser production and use.

## Skills

Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of chemistry by making statements, describing information, providing explanations and integrating knowledge; applying knowledge of chemistry to new situations, interpreting information and solving problems; planning and designing experiments to test given hypotheses or to illustrate particular effects; carrying out experimental procedures safely, recording observations and collecting data; selecting information and presenting information appropriately in a variety of forms; processing information (using calculations and units, where appropriate); making predictions and generalisations based on evidence/information; drawing valid conclusions and giving explanations supported by evidence/justification; identifying a sources of uncertainties and suggesting improvements to experiments; communicating findings/information

Skills in numeracy will be also be addressed and thinking skills will be developed through analysing and applying knowledge.

## Assessment

The SQA reviewed end-of-unit assessments and removed them but as a minimum there will be internal unit tests to monitor progress. At least one practical will be used along with research to produce a formal written report which will be marked externally.

There is a final written external examination.

## Homework

In addition to pupils regularly looking over their classwork, pupils will be given a variety of tasks regularly. This will involve practice questions, pre-reading material for class, researching information or producing a report or presentation. The task may be issued electronically or on paper.

## Progression

Gaining a pass in this course will allow entry to Higher Chemistry or another N5 science.



## Content

The National 5 course is organised into three Units:

- Electricity and Energy – The basis for understanding our technological world;
- Waves and Radiation – Including telecommunications and nuclear physics;
- Dynamics and Space – The science of movement and forces, on Earth and beyond.

## Skills

Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of physics by making statements, describing information, providing explanations and integrating knowledge; applying knowledge of physics to new situations, interpreting information and solving problems; planning, designing, and safely carrying out experiments/practical investigations to test given hypotheses or to illustrate particular effects; selecting information and presenting information appropriately in a variety of forms; processing information, using calculations and units where appropriate; making predictions based on evidence/information; drawing valid conclusions and giving explanations supported by evidence/justification; identifying sources of uncertainty and suggesting improvements to experiments/practical investigations; communicating findings/information.

Skills in numeracy will be also be addressed and thinking skills will be developed through analysing and applying knowledge.

## Assessment

The SQA reviewed end-of-unit assessments and removed them but as a minimum there will be internal unit tests to monitor progress. At least one practical will be used along with research to produce a formal written report which will be marked externally.

There is a final written external examination.

## Homework

In addition to pupils regularly looking over their classwork, pupils will be given a variety of tasks regularly. This will involve practice questions, pre-reading material for class, researching information or producing a report or presentation. The task may be issued electronically or on paper.

## Progression

Gaining a pass in this course will allow entry to Higher Physics or another N5 science.



## Content

The content is designed to build on a national 4 qualification in any one of the sciences:

This is a National 5 course. It has 3 ½ Units that are mandatory together with a half Unit which is taken from three optional Units.

The mandatory Units are:

Energy: An Introduction

Energy: Domestic Wind Turbines Systems

Energy: Domestic Solar Hot Water Systems

Energy: Employability and Careers

## Skills

Assessment across the Units of this Course will allow candidates to demonstrate:

- general engineering skills
- a combination of integrated electrical installation and plumbing skills
- mechanical skills
- skills associated with planning and investigating
- review and evaluation skills
- working with others in teams
- self-evaluation skills
- Skills in numeracy will be also be addressed and thinking skills will be developed through analysing and applying knowledge.

## Assessment

Assessment of the Course is through a range of methods including candidate folio of written and/or oral evidence, practical activities supported by assessor observation checklists as well as self- evaluation.

Evidence is collected in a folio throughout the course and verified by the SQA. There is no final written examination.

## Homework

In addition to pupils regularly looking over their classwork, pupils will be given a variety of tasks regularly. This will involve practice questions, pre-reading material for class, researching information or producing a report or presentation. The task may be issued electronically or on paper.

## Progression

Gaining a pass in this course will allow entry to another N5 science or an ideal background for a modern apprenticeship.



## Content

This course is offered at National 3 and 4. The units covered will be:

- Environmental Science: Living Environment
- Environmental Science: Earth's Resources
- Environmental Science: Sustainability

## Skills

The main aims of this Course are for learners to:

- using, with guidance, environmental science knowledge and understanding
- solving simple problems and making decisions
- carrying out experiments/practical investigations safely
- using, with guidance, information handling skills by selecting, presenting and processing information
- making basic generalisations from evidence/information
- drawing valid conclusions from evidence

## Assessment

*Unit assessment:*

All Units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis. SQA will provide external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

*Course assessment:*

National 4 courses include assessment of 'added value'. The added value will be assessed in the Course assessment.

## Homework

Homework will be given on a minimum of a weekly basis. It will supplement work covered in class and develop problem solving skills. Exam style questions will also be practised.

## Progression within Senior Phase

Successful completion of National 4 will progress to National 5.



**Content**

The content is designed to build on a national 4 qualification in any one of the sciences:

This is a National 5 course, organised into three Units:

Unit 1 Laboratory Science: Careers using Laboratory Science

Unit 2 Working in a Laboratory

Unit 3 Practical Skills

Unit 4 Practical Investigation

**Skills**

Assessment across the Units of this Course will allow candidates to demonstrate:

- ◆ laboratory practical skills: measurement, preparation of solutions, instrumentation
  - ◆ scientific data collection and reporting skills
  - ◆ health and safety procedures
  - ◆ knowledge and understanding in relation to working in a laboratory
  - ◆ generic and specific employability skills and attitudes valued by employers
  - ◆ skills associated with planning and investigating
  - ◆ review and evaluation skills
  - ◆ working with others in teams
  - ◆ self-evaluation skills
- Skills in numeracy will be also be addressed and thinking skills will be developed through analysing and applying knowledge.

**Assessment**

Assessment of the Course is through a range of methods including candidate folio of written and/or oral evidence, practical activities supported by assessor observation checklists as well as self- evaluation.

Evidence is collected in a folio throughout the course and verified by the SQA. There is no final written examination.

**Homework**

In addition to pupils regularly looking over their classwork, pupils will be given a variety of tasks regularly. This will involve practice questions, pre-reading material for class, researching information or producing a report or presentation. The task may be issued electronically or on paper.

**Progression**

Gaining a pass in this course will allow entry to another N5 science or an ideal background for a modern apprenticeship.



## Content

National Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is in a unique position as a bridge between the social sciences and the natural sciences. The National 4 / 5 course is split into three units. Within the *Physical Environments* unit pupils will develop their understanding of weather, glaciated uplands and coastal landscapes. The *Human Environments* unit will focus upon developments in urban and rural landscapes, population and migration. The *Global Issues* studied will focus upon methods of prediction for volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tropical storms alongside the causes, effects and strategies adopted to manage diseases e.g. AIDS, malaria, heart disease.

## Skills

Geography develops excellent transferable skills that are of use in a wide variety of careers. Digital and traditional map skills are taught throughout the course. Pupils will develop their numeracy skills by analysing and creating a wide variety of data and use this data to explain complex global issues including population growth and the changing land use in urban areas. Literacy skills will be developed through the interpretation of questions and their command words as well as a wide variety of new subject specific vocabulary.

## Assessment

At National 4 all units will be internally assessed throughout the year via a bank of questions and activities. Alongside this an independent Added Value research project must be completed.

National 5 will be continually assessed in school and externally assessed via a final SQA exam which will account for 80% of their overall award. The further 20% is made up of an independent assignment which will showcase the skills, knowledge and understanding gained.

## Homework

Homework will be issued regularly and will take a variety of formats including exam style questions to prepare pupils for assessment as well as research tasks and projects to improve their overall comprehension. On top of this pupils should be regularly reviewing course content using Google Classroom alongside their notes.

## Progression

For pupils achieving certification at National 4, progression could be to National 5 in Geography or any other Social Subject.

Learners achieving at National 5 level can progress to studying Higher Geography or other courses.



## Content

All National courses are broken down into three common areas of study- a Scottish topic, a British topic and a European topic. Our Scottish Topic will be *Migration and Empire*. This topic looks at the impact of key factors in the movement of people and culture across the world and how they in turn changed their new homelands.

Our British topic is the *Atlantic Slave Trade*. This topic looks at one of the most successful, but also devastating periods of human history. You will explore the growth of ambitious empires and how the demand for cheap labour led to the exploitation of millions of people.

Our European and World Topic is *Hitler and Nazi Germany, 1919-1939*. This topic looks at the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. You will have to navigate through revolutions, violence, invasions and bankruptcy to consider how Hitler was allowed to rise to power.

*Myth Buster*- History is *not* about remembering dates!

History, in its broadest sense, is about people of the past and their actions. If you choose to take on a National level course, it will demand a great deal of time and effort on your part to master the skills needed to succeed. In return, you will have the opportunity to explore some of the most important moments in the history of mankind to assess how historical figures changed the course of history, for better or for worse.



## Assessment

To gain the course award in National 4/5 History, candidates must pass all of the unit assessments. National 4 candidates will also complete an added value assignment task as part of their internally assessed course. National 5 candidates will be assessed in two parts: the added value assessment researched and written in class which makes up 20% of their final grade and the question paper which makes up the other 80% of their final grade.

## Homework

Homework is regularly given in History. This will most take the form of exam style questions that will focus on improving key skills for the final exam. Homework may also include research tasks and other forms of content based work.

## Progression

For pupils achieving certification at National 4 level, progression could be to National 5 in History or any other Social Subject.

Learners achieving at National 5 level can progress onto Higher History, or other courses, or into employment or training.

## Content

There are three mandatory units in total. In the political unit pupils explore *Democracy in Scotland*, focusing on issues such as representation, participation and influence. Within the social unit, the focus is on *Crime and Law in the UK* where the causes, consequences and ways to reduce crime are explored. Pupils will also learn about the court system and evaluate different punishment options. The third unit has an international focus, specifically *International Conflict*. Within this unit pupils explore the issue of war, investigating the causes and impact of conflict globally. How to prevent, end and limit the impact of conflict are also explored. Throughout the unit, the civil war in Syria is used as a case study.



## Skills

Modern Studies supports the development of a number of key skills, including:

- comparing and contrasting to draw valid conclusions and detect bias
- critical thinking through accessing, analysing and using information from a wide variety of sources
- discussion and informed debate
- developing reasoned and justified points of view
- presentation skills – oral, written, multimedia.

## Assessment

**National 4** – At National 4 all units will be internally assessed throughout the year via a bank of questions and activities. Alongside this an independent Added Value research project must be completed.

**National 5** – progress will be continuously assessed throughout the year, culminating in an externally assessed final exam covering all of the units and skills. 25% of the overall grade comes from an independent, externally assessed research project and report prepared in class time. The final exam covers the remaining 75%.

## Homework

Homework will be issued regularly and will take a variety of formats including exam style questions as well as research tasks and projects to improve their overall comprehension. On top of this pupils should be regularly reviewing course content using Google Classroom alongside their notes.

## Progression

For pupils achieving certification at National 4 level, progression could be to National 5 in Modern Studies or any other Social Subject. Learners achieving at National 5 level can progress to studying Higher Modern Studies or other courses, or into employment or training. Modern Studies skills are valued and positively recognised by many employers.



## Content

This National 5 course will introduce some of the key skills and concepts involved in working in the travel and tourism industry. The course is split into 4 units providing an overview of the Travel and Tourism industry. The course starts with the *Scotland* unit and offers pupils the opportunity to explore Scotland and all it has to offer tourists as well as the impact tourism has on Scotland. *Employability* unit examines jobs within the travel and tourism industry but also transferable skills such as CV writing, interview preparation and self-evaluation. *UK and Worldwide* unit will focus upon UK, Europe and long-haul destinations allowing pupils to discover and extend their geographical location knowledge. *Customer Service* unit will focus upon customer service needs in a travel and tourism environment but also those requirements for working in a retail or customer service based industry.



## Skills

Travel and Tourism will introduce some of the key skills and concepts involved in working in the travel and tourism industry, and acts as excellent preparation for progressing towards study at a higher level or employment. Some of the skills which will be developed throughout the course include leadership opportunities within groups. Team working and communication skills are an integral part to the completion of project tasks. Problem-solving and the ability to research independently is at the heart of tasks within the Scotland and UK & Worldwide units, with a key focus on creating detailed travel itineraries.

## Assessment

National Travel and Tourism comprises of a significant amount of internally assessed tasks and projects, all of which must be completed to gain an overall course award.

## Homework

Homework will be issued regularly and will typically take the format of research work either via Google Classroom or course reading materials.

## Progression

For pupils achieving certification at National 4 level, progression could be to National 5 in Travel and Tourism.

Learners achieving at National 5 level can progress to studying HNC Travel and Tourism or move into training or employment.



**Content**

The National 4/5 course covers a wide range of topics which give pupils a beginners knowledge of Administration & IT in the workplace. Topics covered include:

- Communication in Administration
- Administrative Practices
- Information Technology for Administrators

**Skills**

The N4/5 courses focuses on a number of core skills that are transferrable across the curriculum. Skills developed include:

- Numeracy skills
- Literacy skills
- Problem solving skills
- ICT skills

**Assessment**

Assessment of the N4 course is completed internally and involves unit assessments at the end of each unit and the completion of an Added Value unit. All of these assessments are completed in class time and marked internally.

Assessment of the National 5 course involves a course assignment and an exam paper during the exam diet in May. These are both external assessments which are marked by the SQA. The course assignment is completed in class time but is marked externally. It will be worth 58 % of the overall grade. The exam paper will be worth 42 % of the overall grade.

**Homework**

Homework tasks will be issued at regular intervals mainly at the end of a topic. This will involve completing exam style questions. Pupils are also asked regularly to complete questions based on work covered in class at home. Homework may be issued and submitted via google classroom or through paper copies.

**Progression**

Pupils who achieve a pass in N4 Administration & IT could progress to study N5 Administration & IT.

Pupils who achieve a pass in N5 Administration & IT could progress to study Higher Administration & IT.



**Content**

The National 5 course covers a range of topics which give pupils a beginner's knowledge of the important areas of Accounting. There are 2 topics:

Financial Accounting - business documents, ledger accounts, trial balance, financial statements, interpretation of accounts through ratios, correction of errors and statement of financial position.

Management Accounting – inventory record cards, overhead analysis, labour and job costing, cash budgets, break-even analysis, and decision making.

**Skills**

The National 5 course focuses on a number of core skills that are transferrable across the curriculum. Skills developed include:

- Analysis skills
- Numeracy skills
- Evaluation skills
- Problem solving skills
- ICT skills

**Assessment**

Assessment of the National course involves both internally marked assessment and external assessment. Internal assessment takes the form of an A/B Test sat at the end of each topic. External assessment includes a final exam which constitutes 72 % of the final grade and an assignment which is 28 % of the final grade. The course assignment is completed in class time but is marked externally.

**Homework**

Homework tasks will be issued at regular intervals. This will involve completing questions based on the topic being covered in class to allow them to consolidate their learning. These may be paper based or involve the use of ICT such as spreadsheets. Pupils must be committed in this area of the course in order to achieve their full potential.

**Progression**

Pupils who achieve a pass at National 5 Accounting could go on to study Higher Accounting.



## Content

The National 4 course covers a wide range of topics which give pupils an introduction to important areas of Business Management. Topics covered include:

- Business in Action
- Influences in Business

## Skills

The National 4 course focuses on a number of core skills that are transferrable across the curriculum. Skills developed include:

- Numeracy skills
- Literacy skills
- Research skills
- Problem solving skills

## Assessment

Assessment of the N4 course is completed internally and involves unit assessments at the end of each unit and the completion of an Added Value unit. All of these assessments are completed in class time and marked internally.

## Homework

Homework tasks will be issued at regular intervals mainly at the end of a topic. This will involve completing exam style questions. Pupils are also asked regularly to complete questions based on work covered in class at home. Homework may be issued and submitted via google classroom or through paper copies.

## Progression

Pupils who achieve a pass at National 4 Business could go on to study National 5 Business Management.



**Content**

The National 5 course covers a wide range of topics which give pupils a beginners knowledge of important areas of Business Management. Topics covered include:

- Understanding Business
- Management of Marketing and Operations
- Management of People and Finance

**Skills**

The National 5 course focuses on a number of core skills that are transferrable across the curriculum. Skills developed include:

- Analysis skills
- Numeracy skills
- Literacy skills
- Research skills
- Evaluation skills
- Problem solving skills
- ICT skills

**Assessment**

Assessment of the National course involves both internally marked assessment and external assessment. Internal assessment takes the form of an A/B Test sat at the end of each topic. External assessment includes a final exam which constitutes 75 % of the final grade and an assignment which is 25 % of the final grade. The course assignment is completed in class time but is marked externally.

**Homework**

Homework tasks will be issued at regular intervals mainly at the end of a topic. This will involve completing exam style questions. Pupils are also asked regularly to complete questions based on work covered in class at home. Homework may be issued and submitted via google classroom or through paper copies.

**Progression**

Pupils who achieve a pass at National 5 Business Management could go on to study Higher Business Management.



### **Content**

The course covers the technical theory of how computers can be used to create and store animations. Pupils will also learn to create short animations using computer software, including learning about animation concepts and techniques. Animations will be further enhanced by learning about editing and including additional digital media.

This course does not include any computer programming, making it suitable for people who have not studied Computing since S2 or earlier.

### **Skills**

A number of key transferable skills are developed as part of the NPA award:

- Analysis & Design skills
- Evaluation Skills,
- Literacy, digital literacy and numeracy skills
- Practical skills with widely used animation and media software

### **Assessment**

A combination of class tests and practical assignments are used to produce a portfolio of evidence that pupils understand all of the outcomes of the course.

### **Homework**

Due to the practical nature of this course there is no formal programme of homework. However, there is an expectation that learners will attend at lunch-times in order to complete outstanding work where necessary prior to completion deadlines.

### **Progression**

To entry level employment in sectors that use computer animation as part of their business. The course also progresses to further education courses in computer animation.



**Content***Database Design & Development:*

The Database unit covers the use of computers for collecting, organising, storing and processing large amounts of data. Pupils will learn to create databases and use SQL to query them.

*Software Design & Development:*

The Software Development unit focuses on the processes used to create computer software. Programming is a strong focus and pupils will learn basic programming constructs using Python.

*Website Design & Development:*

The Website unit investigates the creation of interactive websites using a number of scripting languages. HTML, Cascading Style Sheets and JavaScript are all used in this topic.

*Computer Systems*

The Computer Systems unit examines how computers work – their architecture, how data is represented, computer security and the impact of computers on the environment.

**Skills**

The National courses build on the core skills developed in S3 Computing Science, including:

- Analysis & Design skills
- Problem solving skills
- Evaluation Skills,
- Literacy, digital literacy and numeracy skills

**Assessment***National 5:*

A written exam worth about 70 % of the available marks.

A coursework task worth 30 % of the available marks.

*National 4:*

An Added Value Unit comprising of both written and practical tasks.

Two unit assessments comprising of both written and practical tasks.

**Homework**

A homework task to be completed weekly. Exam questions are used familiarise pupils with what to expect in the National 5 final exam. Pupils are expected to use homework exercises and their feedback as an opportunity to revise and consolidate their classwork.

**Progression**

National 4 Computing Science progress to National 5 Computing Science.

National 5 Computing Science progress to Higher Computing Science.



**Content**

Pupils will have the opportunity to complete a range of different projects which will enable learners to develop the following:

- skills in design and manufacturing models, prototypes and products
- knowledge and understanding of manufacturing processes and materials
- an understanding of the impact of design and manufacturing technologies on our environment and society

**Skills**

Pupils will develop a range of core skills that are transferrable across the curriculum including the following:

- Communication – including sketching and modelling
- Practical craft skills
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Research
- Creativity
- Problem Solving
- Analytical thinking
- Evaluation

**Assessment***National 4*

Pupils must pass a range of assessment standards across two units, *Design and Materials and Manufacturing*. Pupils will then complete an *Added Value Unit* which will give them the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed to a given design brief to produce a design folio and manufacture a prototype model.

*National 5*

At this level the assessment is made up of a course assignment (100 marks) and an exam (80 marks) which combined will determine a pupils' final grade. The course assignment consists of a design element (55 marks) and a practical element (45 marks).

**Homework**

Homework will be issued at regular intervals throughout the course. Tasks are designed to give pupils the opportunity to consolidate on their learning in class which will ultimately prepare them for all types of assessment included in the course. Homework and support/revision resources are predominantly shared via Google Classroom. Pupils may also be expected to finish any project work not completed in class.

**Progression**

Pupils who achieve a pass in N4 Design & Manufacture can progress onto study at N5 level. Pupils who achieve a pass in N5 can progress onto study at Higher level.



**Content**

Pupils will develop a knowledge of a wide range of 2D/3D manual and computer graphics and their application in society. The course comprises of two units. Pupils cover the following topics as part of a range of different projects:

<b>2D Graphic Communication</b>	<b>3D Graphic Communication</b>
Technical drawing and sketching	Planning and producing 3D CAD models
Design and production of promotional graphics	Manual and computer-aided illustration techniques
Computer-aided design (CAD)	3D Graphics in society

**Skills**

Pupils will develop a range of core skills that are transferrable across the curriculum including the following:

- Communication – including drawing, sketching, illustration and desktop publishing
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Creativity
- Analytical thinking
- Digital literacy/ICT
- Evaluation
- Research

**Assessment**

*National 4*

Pupils must pass a range of assessment standards across the two units, 2D Graphic Communication and 3D Graphic Communication. Pupils will then complete an Added Value Unit which will give them the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed to a given design brief.

*National 5*

At this level the course is assessed through a course assignment (40 marks) and an exam (80 marks) which combined will determine pupils' final grade. The course assignment requires pupils to produce a range of graphics in response to a given brief.

**Homework**

Homework is normally issued on a weekly basis. Tasks are designed to give pupils the opportunity to consolidate on their learning in class which will ultimately prepare them for all types of assessment included in the course. Homework and support/revision resources are predominantly shared via Google Classroom.

**Progression**

Pupils who achieve a pass in N4 Graphic Com can progress onto study at N5 level. Pupils who achieve a pass in N5 can progress onto study at Higher level.



### Content

The Course provides opportunities for learners to gain a range of practical woodworking skills and to use a variety of tools, equipment and materials. It allows them to plan activities through to the completion of a range of finished products in wood.

### Skills

The aims of the course are to enable learners to develop:

- Skills in woodworking techniques
- Numeracy skills in measuring and marking out
- Safe working practices in workshop environments
- Practical creativity and problem-solving skills
- The Course will also give learners the opportunity to develop thinking, problem solving, employability, numeracy and literacy.

### Assessment

Learners will draw on, extend and apply skills they have developed during the course. This is assessed through a range of practical activities which requires the production of practical woodwork projects manufactured to given standards and tolerances.

Assessment Criteria includes:

- Accuracy in measuring and marking out
- Quality of manufacture, assembly and surface finishing of products
- Degree on independence
- The ability to work safely

Areas of study/units at N4 & 5 levels in this course are as follows:

- Flat-frame construction
- Carcase construction
- Machining and finishing

Course assessment at Nat 4 is through completion of the above units plus the completion of an added value course project. Course assessment at Nat 5 is through completion of a course project (70 % weighting) and undertaking a final written exam (30 % weighting) prepared by SQA.

### Homework

There will be regular homework exercises in order to develop and consolidate aspects of knowledge & understanding. There is also an expectation that learners will attend at lunch-times in order to complete outstanding work where necessary prior to completion deadlines.

### Progression

Students undertaking the course at National 4 level will be able to progress to National 5 level.

Students undertaking the course at National 5 level will be able to use the qualification as potential entry to relevant college course and/or employment. This course is particularly relevant to those who wish to enter into a trade or the construction industry.



### Content

The Course provides opportunities for learners to gain a range of practical metalworking skills and to use a variety of tools, equipment and materials. It allows them to plan activities through to the completion of a range of finished products in metal.

### Skills

The aims of the course are to enable learners to develop:

- Skills in metalworking techniques
- Numeracy skills in measuring and marking out
- Safe working practices in workshop environments
- Practical creativity and problem-solving skills
- The Course will also give learners the opportunity to develop thinking, problem solving, employability, numeracy and literacy.

### Assessment

Learners will draw on, extend and apply skills they have developed during the course. This is assessed through a range of practical activities which requires the production of practical metalwork projects manufactured to given standards and tolerances.

Assessment Criteria includes:

- Accuracy in measuring and marking out
- Quality of manufacture, assembly and surface finishing of products
- Degree on independence
- The ability to work safely

Areas of study/units at N4&5 levels in this course are as follows:

- Bench skills
- Machine processes
- Fabrication and thermal joining

Course assessment at Nat 4 is through completion of the above units plus the completion of an added value course project. Course assessment at Nat 5 is through completion of a course project (70 % weighting) and undertaking a final written exam (30 % weighting) prepared by SQA.

### Homework

There will be regular homework exercises in order to develop and consolidate aspects of knowledge & understanding. There is also an expectation that learners will attend at lunch-times in order to complete outstanding work where necessary prior to completion deadlines.

### Progression

Students undertaking the course at National 4 level will be able to progress to National 5 level.

Students undertaking the course at National 5 level will be able to use the qualification as potential entry to relevant college course and/or employment. This course is particularly relevant to those who wish to enter into a trade or the construction industry.



**Course overview:**

Pupils on this course will learn about the conservation principles and work of the John Muir Award. The principles are discover, explore, conserve and share with a focus on the wild places in and around Aberdeen. The course has an emphasis on physical activity, and pupils regularly undertake activities of an adventurous nature such as gorge-walking and climbing. Pupils choose environmental areas to study for example coasts or forests. The course is led by fully qualified instructors from Adventure Aberdeen, supported by school staff. The work is a mixture of class-based work and outdoor activities.

**Entry Requirement:**

Pupils will be selected through a referral process, with pupils meeting specific criteria.

**Assessment:**

Pupils will be evaluated throughout the course based on their performance of individual and group tasks. They are required to write reports and deliver presentations to explain the key features of their chosen environment.

**Homework:**

Pupils are encouraged to continue their studies of the outdoors out with school and to consider voluntary work linked to conservation.

**Progression within Senior Phase:**

This course would link well with future studies in Geography or Further Education opportunities.

**World of Work/Career possibilities:**

The course has a strong focus on the world of work linked to conservation. Visits are organised to the coastguard, meteorological centre in Aberdeen as well as the Forestry Commission and pupils are encouraged to participate in the work experiences offered.

This course develops many transferable skills which would be valued by employers – determination, team-work, dedication being just a few.

Pupils interested in this course may ultimately wish to pursue career in conservation, for example with the Forestry Commission, or National Trust for Scotland.



## National 5

**Which topic areas are covered?**

This course has 4 Units. To complete the Course award the students must successfully achieve all 4e Units which make up the Course. It provides experiential learning, a well-rounded view of Early Education and Development of children, legislation, policy and professional ethics that you must follow. Students will also be equipped with key knowledge and skills and develop positive attitudes that will allow them to progress to transferable skills to other academic or career pathways, particularly those involved in working with children.

- **Child Development and Health**  
This Unit is designed to introduce learners to the principles of child development from 0–16 years. Students will learn what is meant by sequences and patterns in child development and the inter- relationship between all aspects of that development. Students will also learn about the health needs of children and how health factors may affect the development of children.
- **Play in Early Education and Childcare**  
This Unit allows learners to develop an understanding of the benefits of a variety of types of play to children aged 0-12 years. Students will learn how children benefit from a range of play experiences through planning, setting up and reviewing play experiences, either in a real or simulated context. A work placement is also arranged to complete this Unit which provides the experiential learning. continuously, to allow the students to put theory into practise; this is in addition to the timetabled class time.
- **Working in Early Education and Childcare**  
This Unit allows learners to develop an understanding of the Early Education and Childcare sector and to explain ways in which the sector meets the care, learning and development needs of children aged 0-12 years. Students will consider career options within the sector and the skills, qualities and qualifications required to fulfil these roles. They will reflect on their own skills, qualities and achievements in relation to these. Students will carry out an investigation of the sector. This may require them to visit early education and childcare settings. Students will work be assessed in groups, as well as individually.
- **Parenting**  
This Unit enables the learner to develop an understanding of the role of a parent. They will, in a simulated context, demonstrate some of the responsibilities of parenthood and find out about the influences on parenting. Working as part of a group, they will investigate the support available to parents from the family and the community. Students may be required to visit community resources that offer support to parents

**Placements:** Pupils will be expected to attend work placements which will provide them with the opportunity to participate in the “real life elements” of working with children as part of a team, share experiences with the staff team, develop skills, confidence and competency in the care, learning and development of children using the resources available to reinforce the theory learned as part of their course.

**Which skills are taught?**

- To be able identify health needs of children and how health factors may affect the development of children
- How to plan, set up and evaluate play experiences in their work placement and in class.
- Reflection after planning play activities, evaluating and identifying learning points.
- Understanding of health and safety issues and the importance of risk/benefit assessments.
- Observing children, in practice and identifying areas for development.
- Increased awareness of the factors that impact on the lives of children, their parents and



- carers.
- An informed and enhance their understanding of what can be considered as effective early education and childcare provision
- Understanding of the workplace and the employee's responsibilities, for example time-keeping, appearance.
- Planning for personal and group investigations
- Reviewing research methodology and gathering, collating and evaluating information
- Communication and time management skills by working as part of a team co-operatively to achieve group assessments.
- Self-evaluation skills after completion of activities, such as group work or individual activities.
- confidence to set goals, reflect and learn from experience
- Presentation skills

**Is there an external examination in the subject?**

There is no final exam.

All units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres.

**What kind of homework is given to support the learning?**

All students are issued with workbooks to help support their knowledge and understanding to pass the course units.

**How often is homework issued?**

A summer homework assignment is issued to students to help support their learning, understanding and research skills in preparation for their return after the summer break. Homework may also be issued weekly.

**How can students progress with the subject?**

- Other qualifications in the Early Education & Childcare Sector
- Further study, employment or training

**Which careers would benefit from the knowledge of the subject?**

Early Years Practitioners/ Support Workers, Out of School Club Practitioner/Support Worker, Modern Apprentice Early Years Practitioner, Family Centre Worker, Teaching, Social Work, Nursing.

**How could parents help?**

They will receive homework and it would be beneficial if you could discuss this with them.

For additional information go to:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/69529.html>

