

**S3 into S4  
Course Choice Booklet  
for 2026/2027**





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## S4 - Senior Phase



This booklet has been designed to provide you with essential information as your child prepares to move into S4 Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence. As your child will be involved in individual choice in most areas of their learning, course descriptors for all S4 courses have been provided to support them in making an informed choice.

Your child is currently progressing with their S3 Broad General Education. As you are already aware the aim of BGE is to continue with breadth across the curriculum, whilst encouraging pupils to learn in greater depth, as well as developing their learning in the key areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. In addition to this, there is more emphasis on acquiring the skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work that will help prepare them for the future.

S3 courses cover the Curriculum for Excellence level 3 and level 4 outcomes, and your child's progress is being assessed using a variety of approaches, which will include a profile of their achievements and attainment, while still offering a summative report of their performance. Initial entry into the Senior Phase in S4 will involve an open choice of courses based on progress and achievement within third and fourth levels during S3.

S4 pupils will study **seven** nationally accredited courses. They are called National Qualifications or 'Nationals'. All pupils will continue with the study of English and Maths/Applications of Maths as well as making a choice of **five** other subjects plus a Reserve choice.

Most pupils will study at National 5, National 4 or National 3 at Arbroath High this session. They may then progress to Higher in S5 and Advanced Higher in S6. More information about SCQF levels can be found [here](#).

Pupils have already been informed in their PHSE class of the S4 courses on offer to them. In order to make an informed choice, course descriptors have been provided in this booklet for all S3 courses.

Pupils will also have an interview with their Pupil Care and Support teacher to discuss their option choices. The recommended course will be issued to you for discussion at home. It is important that choices are then finalised and confirmed with you as parent/carer.

Pupils are asked to complete this process and discuss with their PT Pupil Care and Support by **Tuesday 3rd February 2026**.



# Administration and IT



## Course Content

The key purpose of this course is to develop learners' administrative and IT skills and, ultimately, to enable them to contribute to the effective functioning of organisations. The course aims to enable learners to:

- develop a basic understanding of administration in the workplace and key legislation affecting employees
- develop an appreciation of good customer care
- develop IT skills and use them to perform straightforward administrative task
- acquire organisational skills in the context of organising and supporting small scale events

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

The National 4 course is internally assessed.

### **National 5**

Pupils will sit a 2 hour question paper worth 40% of the overall marks for the course and a practical assignment which makes up the other 60%. Both are conducted under SQA exam conditions

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 or Higher Administration & IT, employment or college.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Administration and IT](#)





# Applications of Mathematics



## Course Content

Applications of Mathematics focus on using mathematics to solve real-life problems.

Three units which cover the following topics:

- **Numeracy** – calculations and number skills
- **Finance and Statistics** – income, deductions, budgeting, interest, taxation, loans, savings, foreign currency, charts, graphs, averages
- **Geometry and Measures** – units of measure, area, perimeter, volume, scale, speed, distance, time, container packing, tolerance, gradient, Pythagoras' Theorem

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

All units are internally assessed and a calculator is allowed. Pupils will also be required to sit an Added Value Unit. This course is not graded, pupils will be awarded a pass or a fail.

### **National 5**

Pupils will sit an SQA exam. This consists of two papers.

Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) – 35 marks

Paper 2 (Calculator) – 55 marks

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 Applications of Maths, Level 6 Statistics Award or Higher Applications of Maths .

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Applications of Mathematics](#)





# Art and Design



## Course Content

In both Expressive and Design units, you will plan, research, develop, produce and present creative artworks and design solutions, using experiences gained in a range of media. Experiences will differ over a variety of disciplines and could include drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, printmaking, collage, photography, graphics, fashion and textiles and jewellery. Critical activities, closely related to the practical work you experience, will develop your knowledge and understanding of artists and designers and their work.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

You will complete an Expressive Activity, a Design activity and an Added Value Unit (this is a practical task). To gain National 4, you must pass all units, which are pass or fail and assessed in school.

### **National 5**

Assessment for N5 Art and Design involves completion of a Design Portfolio, an Expressive Portfolio which are sent away to SQA in March to be externally marked. Your folios are worth 70% of your final award. You also sit a written Question Paper, which is worth 30% of your final award.

## Progression

Art and Design qualifications in S5 and S6, with pathways towards college, university and careers in Art and Design. You may also wish to consider Higher Photography.

### **Links to more information and career pathways:**

[Art and Design](#)

[Careers in Art and Design](#)





# Biology



## Course Content

Three units which cover the following topics:

- Cell Biology
- Multicellular Organisms
- Life on Earth

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

All units are internally assessed. There will be an assignment to complete as part of the course which is also internally assessed.

### **National 5**

Units are internally assessed and are used in a formative way to monitor progress throughout the course. Successfully passed units can in some cases be used as evidence to contribute to the overall National 4 award if required. There will be an assignment to complete as part of the course. There will be an externally assessed SQA exam.

## Progression

Progression will be to Higher Biology or National 5 in other Sciences.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Biology](#)





# Business Management



## Course Content

The National 5 Business Management course helps candidates develop an understanding of the economic and financial environment in which businesses operate. This enables them to make an effective contribution to society as consumers, employees, employers or self-employed people.

The course comprises five areas of study:

Understanding business

Management of marketing

Management of operations

Management of people

Management of people

## Course Assessment

### **National 4 - Business**

The National 4 course is internally assessed.

### **National 5 – Business Management**

Pupils will sit a 2 hour question paper worth 75% of the overall marks for the course and an assignment which is conducted in class over a period of 5 hours which makes up the other 25% of the marks available.

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 or Higher Business Management.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Business Management](#)





# Chemistry



## Course Content

Three units which cover the following topics:

- Chemical Changes and Structure
- Nature's Chemistry
- Chemistry Society

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

All units are internally assessed. There will be an assignment to complete as part of the course which is also internally assessed.

### **National 5**

Units are internally assessed and are used in a formative way to monitor progress throughout the course. Successfully passed units can in some cases be used as evidence to contribute to the overall National 4 award if required. There will be an assignment to complete as part of the course. There will be an externally assessed SQA exam.

## Progression

This course or its units may provide progression to Higher Chemistry or National 5 other Sciences.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Chemistry](#)





# Computer Games Development



## Course Content

There are three mandatory units that you must complete in order to achieve an overall course award.

- **Design** - You will gain an understanding of digital gaming planning and design principles, plan and design a game level, explore the role of a game designer, evaluate design methods in game production, and create a digital game based on a given brief.
- **Media Assets** - You will acquire an understanding of the different types of media asset required for developing a digital game. You will learn how to plan and produce media assets for use in a game development environment.
- **Development** - You will learn the final stages of digital game development, use a game development environment to create a working game, test it with a strategy, evaluate it through user reviews, and plan and deliver a promotional activity.

## Course Assessment

You will create an electronic portfolio of your work. The portfolio will be constructed over the duration of each unit within the course. The contents of the portfolio will be clearly labelled and related to specific evidence requirements.

## Progression

Progression will be to NPA Level 5 or 6 in Computer Games Development or Computing courses at college or University.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Computer Games Development](#)





# Computing Science



## Course Content

### **National 4**

- Software Design and Development
- Information System Design and Development

### **National 5**

- Software Design and Development
- Computer Systems
- Database Design and Development

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

The National 4 course is internally assessed.

### **National 5**

Pupils will sit a 90 minute question paper worth 67% of the overall course award and a 6 hour practical assignment (in class) both under exam conditions and externally marked by SQA. The assignment makes up the other 33% of the course award.

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 or Higher Computing Science.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Computing Science](#)





# Dance



## Course Content

- **National 5 Dance** develops learners' technical, creative and expressive dance skills through performance and choreography.
- Learners take part in practical dance classes where they learn and perform a range of dance sequences, developing physical fitness, coordination, control, musicality and confidence.
- Learners create their own choreographed dances using a variety of choreographic devices and structures, building creativity, problem-solving skills and the ability to communicate ideas and emotions through movement.
- Learners develop reflective and evaluative skills by analysing their own work and the work of others using appropriate dance terminology.
- National 5 Dance is suited to learners who are motivated, creative and enjoy practical learning through performance and choreography.
- Learners who choose this course will develop confidence, discipline and creativity while exploring dance in an engaging and practical way.

## Course Assessment

Learners are assessed by a combination of written and practical assessments. The 30-mark written exam is worth 20% of your overall grade and lasts 1 hour; it covers evaluation of your own work (10 marks), knowledge & understanding of a chosen dance style (10 marks) and evaluation of professional choreography (10 marks).

The practical assessment is worth 45% of your overall grade; section 1: creating your own choreography with the appropriate choices of choreographic devices, and section 2: choreographic review.

## Progression

The skills developed in National 5 Dance—such as confidence, teamwork, creativity and discipline—are highly transferable and valued across a wide range of careers and learning pathways.

This would allow you to progress to a wide range of sport, fitness, dance, performing arts or health and wellbeing Higher courses or Higher education courses at college.



# Drama



## Course Content

Studying Drama offers numerous benefits beyond the stage. It improves your confidence and public speaking skills, encourages creativity and imagination, develops teamwork and collaboration and enhances emotional intelligence. Throughout the session you will explore Drama Skills and Production skills – and there is personalisation and choice as you decide whether to pursue an acting or production role for your final performance. You will develop practical skills in creating and presenting, drama production skills, knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences on drama, the ability to respond to stimuli when being creative, communication skills, voice, movement and characterisation skills, the ability to work collaboratively, sharing and using ideas and problem-solving and reflection skills.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

You will complete two units: drama skills and production skills. You will also complete an Added Value Unit based on Drama Performance. To gain National 4, you must pass all units, which are pass or fail and assessed in school.

### **National 5**

You will participate in a Drama Performance which is marked by an external examiner who will come to school. This is worth 60% of your final award. You will also sit a question paper which is worth 40% of your final award.

## Progression

Progression will be to Level 6 or Higher Drama, or a related course at college/University.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Drama](#)





# Early Education and Childcare



## Course Content

The National Level Course in Early Education and Childcare course is specifically designed to give pupils a basic understanding of what is required to ensure that all aspects of a child's development are successfully met, covering physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth. This fundamental knowledge will actively support pupils who wish to follow a career path in the childcare industry, teaching, or simply gain a deeper understanding of how child development works.

The course comprises four areas of study:

- **Development and Wellbeing of Children and Young People**
- **Play in Early Learning and Childcare**
- **Working in Early Learning and Childcare**
- **Care and Feeding of Children and Young People**

## Course Assessment

### **National Level 5**

Units are internally assessed and are used in a formative way to monitor progress throughout the course. Successfully passed units can in some cases be used as evidence to contribute to the overall National 4 award if required.

Candidates will be assessed using a variety of written and/or oral based evidence. There is no external assessment for this course, they will be required to demonstrate that they have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria for the course.

There is the possibility of attending a work placement during this course to gain real life experience.

## Progression

This course or its components may provide progression to: Childcare and Development (SCQF level 6) — Higher or a range of Childcare courses at College or University.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Childcare and Development](#)



# English



## Course Content

The purpose of the course is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop the skills of listening, talking, reading and writing in order to understand and use language.

Both the National 4 and National 5 courses offer learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills.

In particular, the course aims to enable learners to develop the ability to:

- listen, talk, read and write, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- understand, analyse and evaluate texts, including Scottish texts, as appropriate to purpose and audience in the contexts of literature, language and media
- create and produce texts, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- apply knowledge and understanding of language

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

The National 4 course is internally assessed.

### **National 5**

The National 5 course assessment will take the form of a portfolio which is submitted to the SQA and makes up 30% of the overall award and allows learners to demonstrate their writing skills and an exam which includes Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (30%) and Critical Reading – including the Scottish set text (40%).

## Progression

Progression will be either to Higher English or Level 6 Communications in S5 and potentially Advanced Higher in S6.

### **Link to more information:**

[National 5 English](#)





# ESOL



## Course Content

This course is for pupils who are learning English as a second or other language. There will be an individual learning plan for each pupil, depending on their level of English.

The course will focus on developing spoken as well as written English.

## Course Assessment

Pupils studying National 3 or National 4 ESOL are assessed internally on reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Pupils studying National 5 will sit an SQA external assessment. This is the equivalent of National 5 English.

## Progression

Progression can lead to all levels up to Higher ESOL.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[ESOL](#)





# Fashion and Textiles Technology



## Course Content

The purpose of the course is to develop the practical skills, construction techniques and knowledge and understanding which support fashion/textile-related activities. The knowledge, understanding and skills that candidates acquire by successfully completing the course will be valuable for learning, for life and for the world of work.

The course helps candidates develop an understanding of textile properties, characteristics and technologies, item development, fashion/textile trends and factors that affect fashion/textile choice. Emphasis is placed on the development of practical skills and textile construction techniques to make detailed fashion/textile items, to an appropriate standard of quality.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

All National 4 units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the unit specification.

The assessments will test the skills and knowledge covered in class and evaluates the pupil understanding of the course. Assessment is on a pass/fail basis and will be largely practical with some written work eg. Researching, planning, evaluating and short answer tests.

### **National 5**

The National 5 award is assessed externally and consists of 3 components;

- Component 1: written question paper, 30 marks, 1 hour
- Component 2: assignment, 50 marks
- Component 3: practical activity, 50 marks

The assessments will test the skills and knowledge covered in class and evaluates the pupil understanding of the course.

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 or Higher Fashion and Textile Technology or other Fashion and Textile courses at FE college or university.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Fashion and Textiles Technology](#)



# French



## Course Content

Knowing another language is an essential skill for the 21st century. This course enables learners to further develop language skills within the following key topic areas:

**Society** - relationships with others, lifestyle, media, new technologies.

**Learning** - comparing education systems, learning languages, preparing for exams.

**Employability** - part-time jobs, future plans, preparing a CV.

**Culture** - planning a trip abroad, celebrations in other countries.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

All parts of the National 4 course are internally assessed. Pupils are required to pass a Listening, Reading, Talking and Writing Unit Assessment, in addition to completing the National 4 Added Value Unit.

### **National 5**

Pupils will sit an SQA exam. This consists of two papers:

Paper 1 - Reading/Writing (50 marks)

Paper 2 - Listening (20 marks)

There is also a Writing Course Assignment (20 marks) , and a final Talking Performance (30 marks).

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 or Higher French.

### **Link to more information and career pathways:**

[National 4 French](#)

[National 5 French](#)





# Geography



## Course Content

Throughout the course pupils will develop a strong understanding of some of the important areas of Geography and learn how the environment is influenced by human action and vice versa. Pupils will also develop skills and techniques that are specific to Geography such as map interpretation, fieldwork data collection, and data presentation in the form of tables and graphs.

The course is a balance between Human and Physical Geography and is divided into three main units

- Physical Environments: focuses on Coastal & Glacial Landscapes and Weather in the UK
- Human Environments: includes Farming, Urban Settlements and World Population Growth. Pupils will also complete an Added Value Unit on Population Pyramids which involves research data presentation and data analysis.
- Global issues: includes Environmental Hazards and Diseases and Health. The pupils will learn through a range of individual tasks, active learning, group discussion and research.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

Unit Assessments (x3) and Added Value Unit

### **National 5**

SQA exam (80%)

Assignment (20%)

## Progression

Pupils who achieve a Grade A or B at National 5 can progress on to Higher Geography.

An alternative route to Higher is available via Scottish Studies if a lower grade is achieved at National 5.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Geography](#)





# German



## Course Content

Knowing another language is an essential skill for the 21st century. This course enables learners to further develop language skills within the following key topic areas:

**Society** - family and friends, lifestyle, media, new technologies.

**Learning** - comparing education systems, learning languages, preparing for exams.

**Employability** - part-time jobs, future plans, preparing a CV.

**Culture** - planning a trip abroad, celebrations in other countries.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

All parts of the National 4 course are internally assessed. Pupils are required to pass a Listening, Reading, Talking and Writing Unit Assessment, in addition to completing the National 4 Added Value Unit.

### **National 5**

Pupils will sit an SQA exam. This consists of two papers:

Paper 1 - Reading/Writing (50 marks)

Paper 2 - Listening (20 marks)

There is also a Writing Course Assignment (20 marks) , and a final Talking Performance (30 marks).

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 or Higher German.

Link to more information and career pathways:

[National 4 German](#)

[National 5 German](#)





# Graphic Communication



## Course Content

The course develops skills in two main areas.

### **2D graphic communication**

This unit allows learners to initiate, develop and communicate ideas using graphic techniques in straightforward and familiar contexts.

### **3D and pictorial graphic communication**

This unit helps learners develop their creativity and skills within a 3D and pictorial graphic communication context.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

The National 4 course is internally assessed.

### **National 5**

Pupils will sit a 2 hour question paper worth 67% of the overall course award and an 8 hour practical assignment (in class) both under exam conditions and externally marked by SQA. The assignment makes up the other 33% of the course award.

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 or Higher Graphic Communication.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Graphic Communication](#)





# Health Sector



## Course Content

The emphasis of this Level 5 course is to prepare candidates for working in the health sector and develop employability skills valued by employers. The units of work covered in Health Sector are:

- Working in the health sector
- Life Sciences Industry and the Health Sector
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Physiology of the Cardiovascular System
- Working in Non-Clinical Roles

## Course Assessment

There is no external assessment for this course. Learners must successfully complete each unit to achieve the course.

The units are internally assessed and externally verified by SQA.

## Progression

National 5 Biology

Entry to a range of college courses





# History



## Course Content

The course is a balance between Scottish, British and European history and is divided into three units. The Atlantic Slave Trade 1770 – 1807 investigates the horrors of the forced transportation of African people to the Americas to work on plantations – and the campaigns to end this brutal trade. The Era of the Great War 1910-28 takes a look at the role of Scots in the First World War and the impact of that conflict on Scotland. Hitler and Nazi Germany 1919-1939 investigates the causes and consequences of the rise of the Nazis. As well as a range of individual and cooperative classroom activities, group discussion and source analysis, pupils will carry out practical activities such as research and presentations.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

End of unit assessments and an Added Value Unit

### **National 5**

SQA exam (80%)

Assignment (20%)

## Progression

A National 5 pass of A or B will provide an opportunity to study Higher History.

An alternative route is available via Scottish Studies for pupils with lower grades at National 5.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[History](#)





# Laboratory Science



## Course Content

Level 5 lab skills is a course that focusses on practical skills associated with Science. There are 4 Units to this course each can be awarded individually as the pupil progresses. These are;

- Careers Using Laboratory Science
- Working in a Laboratory
- Practical Skills
- Practical Investigations

## Course Assessment

The course is assessed internally with no final exam. The assessments will test the skills and knowledge covered in class and evaluates the pupil understanding of the course.

There are 4 unit assessments which take place in class under exam conditions.

## Progression

This course or its units may provide progression to:

- National 5 Science subjects
- Suitable training/employment in science laboratories
- A range of college courses



# Mathematics



## Course Content

The Mathematics course has a strong focus on algebra and theoretical knowledge needed for courses in Engineering, Physics and Computer Science.

Three units which cover the following topics:

- **Expressions & Formulae** – Learners will develop skills linked to mathematical expressions and formulae. These include the manipulation of abstract terms, the simplification of expressions and the evaluation of formulae.
- **Relationships** - Learners will develop skills linked to mathematical relationships. These include solving and manipulating equations, working with graphs and carrying out calculations on the lengths and angles of shapes.
- **Applications** – Learners will develop skills linked to applications of mathematics. These include using trigonometry, geometry, number processes and statistics within real-life contexts.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

All units are internally assessed and a calculator is allowed. Pupils will also be required to sit an Added Value Unit. This course is not graded, pupils will be awarded a pass or a fail.

### **National 5**

Pupils will sit an SQA exam. This consists of two papers.

Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) – 40 marks

Paper 2 (Calculator) – 50 marks

## Progression

Progression will be to Higher Mathematics or depending on other subjects selected; L6 Statistics Award or Higher Applications of Maths.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Mathematics](#)





# Media



## Course Content

This course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills, including communication, independent learning, critical literacy, personal, interpersonal and team working, and creative thinking.

**Analysing Media Content:** The purpose of this Unit is to develop the skills to analyse media content, including film and advertising. This Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of media contexts, roles and the key aspects of media literacy central to the detailed analysis of media content.

**Creating Media Content:** The purpose of this Unit is to develop the skills to plan and create media content, such as a short film, and evaluate production processes. This Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of media literacy central to creating media content

## Course Assessment

### **Pupils are assessed on:**

the ability to analyse and create media content, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context

- knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of media literacy
- knowledge and understanding of the role of media within society
- the ability to plan and research when creating media content

The units of this course are assessed both internally and with a final exam and an assignment sent to the SQA.

## Progression

Progression will be to Higher Media in S5.

### **Link to more information:**

[National 5 Media](#)





# Modern Studies



## Course Content

Democracy in Scotland : Power and decision-making, features of a democratic political society, devolved and reserved matters, role and powers of Scottish First Minister, rights and responsibilities of individuals, elections and campaigning (role of individuals, political parties and the media) Crime and the Law in the UK : nature and extent of crime , evidence of crime, social causes and explanations of crime, economic causes and explanations of crime, biological causes and explanations of crime. International Issue : The study of the USA as a world power focuses on the American political system, its international relations and its socio-economic issues.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4: End of Unit Assessments and an Added Value Unit**

**National 5:** Question Paper 80 marks - a question paper covering the three elements of the course. Assignment 20 marks - a research assignment written up under exam conditions.

## Progression

Pupils who achieve Grades A or B can progress to Higher Modern Studies.  
Access may be available to Grade C pupils through negotiation.

Link to further information and career pathways:

[Modern Studies](#)





# Music



## Course Content

In this course you will experience space for personalisation and choice – performing on your two chosen instruments (or one instrument and voice), creating your own music and learning about a range of different music styles. You will explore the history of music and can play your instruments both in class and as part of our extra – curricular programme of events. Taking instrumental lessons is **not** required to do this course, however we welcome pupils who attend lessons either in or out of school.

Expected baseline performing levels on instruments/voice:

National 4 music – Grade 2 level music

National 5 music – Grade 3 level music

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

You will complete three units: performing skills, composing skills and understanding music, as well as an Added Value Unit which is performance based. To gain National 4, you must pass all units, which are pass or fail and assessed in school.

### **National 5**

Assessment for N5 Music involves a performing exam in February, when an external examiner visits school to hear and mark your programme on both instruments. This is 50% of your final award. You will complete a written paper worth 35% of your final award, and also write an original composition which is centrally marked by SQA and is 15% of your final award.

## Progression

Progression is on to Higher and Advanced Higher Music, and you may wish to opt to study Music Technology at National 5 or Higher level.

Expected performing levels on instruments/voice:

Higher – Grade 4

Advanced Higher – Grade 5

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Music](#)





# Music Technology



## Course Content

If you enjoy working on a computer – this is the course for you! In Music Technology you will explore a broad practical experience of music technology software, techniques and listening to various styles of music. You will create two distinct and contrasting projects, with choice of: radio broadcast, audiobook, sound design for film, sound design for video game and a multitrack. You will develop skills which will allow you to plan, implement and evaluate the two projects, using your creativity to produce unique work. You will develop your understanding of musical concepts, as well as music technology concepts and technological developments.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

You will complete three units: Music Technology Skills, Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music and Music Technology in Context. You will also complete and Added Value Unit: Music Technology Assignment. To gain National 4, you must pass all units, which are graded 'pass or fail' and assessed in school.

### **National 5**

The projects you create will be sent for external assessment to the SQA, forming 70% of your final grade. You will sit a written listening question paper and this will make up the final 30% of your grade.

## Progression

Progression is on to Higher Music Technology. You may also wish to consider studying Music at National 5 or Higher level. There are many courses at college/University that can utilise this qualification.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Music Technology](#)





# PC Passport



## Course Content

The NPA PC Passport at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 provides learners with up-to-date knowledge and skills in a range of popular IT software, such as Office 365. Learners will improve skills in key areas such as word processing, spreadsheets and presentation software and how to use the collaborative and cloud-based features of these packages in order to prepare them for employment and further study.

## Course Assessment

### **Level 4**

The course is assessed using e-assessment and a portfolio of practical evidence

### **Level 5**

The course is assessed using e-assessment and a portfolio of practical evidence

## Progression

Given that this is a suite of awards, the simplest progression is from level to level. Learners who complete an award at one level may progress to the next. So, for example, learners who complete PC Passport at SCQF level 4 may progress to PC Passport at level 5 or level 5 onto level 6.



# Photography



## Course Content

This is a practical course which focusses on the core technical and creative aspects of photography. You will develop key skills for planning, developing and creating photographic shoots based on the themes of People and Places. You will learn how to edit and store images, develop critical thinking skills and gain an awareness of current photography practice. You will gain confidence in their own decision-making and problem-solving and work in pairs, and groups, to support social skills and enjoyment.

There are 4 units on the course:

1. Understanding Photography: learning to respond to the work of past and present professional photographers.
2. Photographing People: learning to plan and execute shoots in response to portraiture.
3. Photographing Places: learning to plan and execute shoots in response to specific locations.
4. Working with Photographs: learning to select, edit and store digital imagery.

## Course Assessment

The qualification is gained through continuous assessment and folio evidence. The units are driven by an awareness of skills and pupils can demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through developing photographic outcomes, editing these and evaluating their progress on a step-by-step basis.

## Progression

Progression is from Level 4 to Level 5, and then on to Higher Photography.

Entry into college creative courses in Art, Design and Photography.

Apprenticeships within a Photography studio.

Employment opportunities in which organising photographic shoots are necessary.

Collaboration with other creative individuals and groups.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Photography](#)



# Physical Education



## Course Content

The aims of the course are to enable learners to:

- develop and demonstrate knowledge of factors impacting on Performance
- develop understanding of the approaches to enhance Personal Performance
- monitor, record and reflect on performance development.
- develop the practical ability to perform a range of movement and performance skills in a variety of contexts

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

Learners will have to pass all internal assessments to achieve a National 4. These units are; *Factors Impacting Performance Unit, Performance Unit, Performance Skills.*

### **National 5**

Learners will have to complete the following two assessments:

- Two internally assessed One-off Practical Performance Assessments (30 marks each)
- A written portfolio that is sent to the SQA (60 marks)

The Portfolio (50%) and 2 x Performances (50%) will make up the overall learner's grade

## Progression



### **Links to more information and career pathway:**

- [Physical Education Course Information](#)
- [Physical Education Career Pathways](#)





# Physics



## Course Content

National 4 and 5 Physics courses have three units in which earners will research issues, apply scientific skills and communicate information related to their findings, which will develop skills of scientific literacy. The units are:

- Electricity and Energy
- Waves and Radiation
- Dynamics and Space

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

National 4 Physics is assessed internally with no final exam. 3 end of unit assessments are completed in class under exam conditions. An added value unit and experimental write up are also assessed.

### **National 5**

National 5 Physics is assessed through an SQA exam and a practical assignment.

## Progression

This course or its units may provide progression to Higher Physics or National 5 other Sciences.

**Link to more information and career pathways:**

[Physics](#)





# Practical Cookery



## Course Content

This course aims to further develop candidates' life skills and enhance their personal effectiveness in terms of cookery and to provide a set of skills for those who wish to progress to further study in the hospitality context.

In preparing candidates for life, the course anticipates their future needs and enables them to learn how to plan, prepare and cook food for themselves and others. It also develops organisational skills, which can be applied in a wide variety of contexts.

## Course Assessment

Component 1: Question paper: based on the knowledge and skills covered as detailed above – worth 30 marks – 1 hour (Externally assessed)

Component 2: Assignment; consisting of a time-plan, equipment list and service details – worth 18 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes (Externally assessed)

Component 3: Practical Activity; prepare and present a three-course meal – worth 82 marks – 2 hour 30 minutes (Internally assessed)

Pupils will study three mandatory units of work and an Added value unit. They are all set by SQA but internally marked. The units are as follows:

- Cookery skills techniques and processes
- Understanding and using ingredients
- Organisational skills for cooking

AVU- Producing a meal: prepare, cook and present a two-course meal in a given timescale.

## Progression

Progression could be courses at FE college or university or possible apprenticeship programmes. Progression for National 4 pupils could be National 5 Practical Cookery and FE College.



# Practical Woodwork



## Course 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.

The course is made up of the following units:

### **Flat-frame Construction**

### **Carcase Construction**

### **Machining and Finishing**

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

Learners will manufacture a final course project which allows integration of the knowledge and skills gained throughout the units of the course. At National 4 level this along with three completed unit assessments will constitute the overall course award.

### **National 5**

At National 5 level the course project alone will be worth 70% with an SQA Question Paper providing the remaining 30%.

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 Practical Woodworking, other practical technological courses at National 5 or Design and Technology courses at FE college or university.

Success in this Practical Woodworking course can lead well into careers in practical industries such as construction, manufacturing and engineering.



# Psychology



## Course Content

National 5 Psychology is composed of 2 mandatory units:

1. Sleep & Dreams
2. Conformity

as well as 2 optional units, chosen by the teacher, which will be:

1. Phobias
2. Non-Verbal Communication.

## Course Assessment

The assessment includes an SQA exam and an assignment.

## Progression

Psychology is most suited for pupils who have completed Biology in S3 and are currently achieving level 4 English. It allows progression to Higher Psychology in S5/6.



# RMPS



## Course Content

The course is divided into three units: World Religion, Morality and Belief and Religious and Philosophical Questions.

- World Religion: Pupils study religion and its impact, relevance and significance through studying some key beliefs and practices found in one major world religion, and the contribution these make to the lives of followers.
- Morality and Belief: Pupils study moral issues and their background, implications and responses through studying one major moral issue and responses to it.
- Religious and Philosophical Questions Pupils study the issues raised by religious and philosophical questions, their implications and responses by studying one question and responses to it. As well as a range of individual and cooperative classroom activities, group discussion and research, pupils will carry out practical activities such as presentations.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

End of Unit assessments and Added Value Unit

### **National 5:**

Pupils studying National 5 will take an external examination set by the SQA at the end of the course. This is worth a total of 80 marks The exam will consist of 3 parts World Religion Morality and Belief Religious and Philosophical Questions Pupils will also complete an assignment of their choosing that is worth 20 marks. Pupils can develop research tasks in S3 to create a more in depth assignment.

## Progression

A National 5 pass grades A-B will provide an opportunity to study Higher RMPS. Grade C may provide access through negotiation.

Link to more information and career pathways:

[RMPS](#)





# Spanish



## Course Content

Knowing another language is an essential skill for the 21st century. This course enables learners to further develop language skills within the following key topic areas:

**Society** - family and friends, lifestyle, media, new technologies.

**Learning** - comparing education systems, learning languages, preparing for exams.

**Employability** - part-time jobs, future plans, preparing a CV.

**Culture** - planning a trip abroad, celebrations in other countries.

## Course Assessment

### **National 4**

All parts of the National 4 course are internally assessed. Pupils are required to pass a Listening, Reading, Talking and Writing Unit Assessment, in addition to completing the National 4 Added Value Unit.

### **National 5**

Pupils will sit an SQA exam. This consists of two papers:

Paper 1 - Reading/Writing (50 marks)

Paper 2 - Listening (20 marks)

There is also a Writing Course Assignment (20 marks) , and a final Talking Performance (30 marks).

## Progression

Progression will be to National 5 or Higher Spanish.

### **Link to more information and career pathways:**

[National 4 Spanish](#)

[National 5 Spanish](#)





# Travel and Tourism



## Course Content

The course is designed to enable a learner who has little or no experience of Travel and Tourism to gain the basic Skills for Work as an introduction to employment in the industry. Specific employability skills are experienced in the Employability Unit. All other Units have been designed to include skills which are essential for employment in the Travel and Tourism industry. Customer care and enterprise skills related to selling are included in a second unit. Product knowledge relating to dealing with customer enquiries feature in the remaining two units: Travel Tourism: Scotland and Travel and Tourism: UK and Worldwide.

## Course Assessment

To achieve the award of Travel and Tourism at Level 5, pupils must complete fifteen assessed pieces of work throughout the course. These are assessed by the teacher and moderated within the school. There is no external exam for this course.

## Progression

Success in Travel and Tourism at SCQF Level 5 (National 5) may provide progression to Travel & Tourism Level 6.

