

**Senior Phase  
S5/S6  
Course Choice Booklet  
for 2026/2027**





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## S5/6 – Senior Phase



This booklet has been designed to provide you with essential information as your child prepares to move into S5/6 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 S5/6 courses have been provided to support them in making an informed choice.

**S5** pupils will study **five** subjects. **S6** pupils will study **four** subjects, unless they choose to study at Advanced Higher Level, this will be discussed during their course choice interview.

Most pupils will study at Advanced Higher, Higher or National 5 at Arbroath High this session. More information about SCQF levels can be found [here](#).

Pupils will also pick **two enrichment choices** as part of their senior phase timetable but will be asked to choose three reserve choices. More information can be found on the school website.

Pupils have already been informed in their PSHE class and assembly of the S5/6 courses on offer to them. In order to make an informed choice, course descriptors have been provided in this booklet for all S5/6 courses. The information in this booklet should be considered alongside oral and written reports on performance and information from any open/information evenings as well as individual course choice discussions. The key is to make evidence-based decisions that give the greatest chance of continued progression and success.

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 Pupil Care and Support teacher by **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**.

### **S5/6 Student Contract**

Students who return to S5/6 are expected to sign a Senior School Contract. This is an agreement to follow the school values whilst also maintaining a high standard of behaviour and work ethic throughout the year.



# Administration and IT Higher



## Course Content

The course consists of two areas of study:

### **Administrative Theory and Practice**

Candidates develop their understanding of the factors contributing to an efficient administrative function. These include time and task management, effective teams, complying with workplace legislation, the impact of digital technologies and customer care.

### **IT applications**

Candidates use a range of advanced functions of the following software applications: word processing, spreadsheets, databases and presentation software.

Candidates also develop skills, knowledge and understanding of how to maintain the security and confidentiality of information.

## Course Assessment

Pupils will sit a 2 hour practical assignment worth 58% of the overall marks for the course and a 90 minutes written exam which makes up the other 42%. Both are conducted under SQA exam conditions.

## Progression

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

[Administration and IT](#)





# Applications of Mathematics Higher



## Course Content

Applications of Mathematics is designed to connect mathematical concepts to real-world scenarios, enhancing learners' ability to apply mathematics in everyday life, work, and further study. Pupils will learn how to use Microsoft Excel and R Studio. Pupil confidence using computer software is desirable.

- **Mathematical Modelling** – mathematical models, formulae, errors and tolerances
- **Statistics and Probability** – Graphs and charts, correlation, linear regression, types of data, populations and samples
- **Finance** – present and future values of money, taxation, personal finance products, inflation
- **Planning and Decision Making** – activity networks, PERT charts, critical activities, critical paths and risk

## Course Assessment

Pupils will sit an SQA exam and complete a project.

### **Question paper – 65 marks**

Both short-answer and extended response questions, some of which require use of a computer for Microsoft Excel (spreadsheets) and R Studio (statistical).

### **Project – 30 marks**

Pupils undertake a project that allows them to apply statistical skills to data analysis. Pupils must research a topic, analyse data using statistical methods and communicate their findings. This is submitted to the SQA for external marking.

## Progression

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

[Applications of Mathematics](#)





# Art and Design Higher



## Course Content

The Higher Art & Design Course will provide hands-on practical experiences in both Expressive and Design activities, allowing you the opportunity to creatively communicate your personal thoughts and ideas using a range of media and techniques. There will be a strong emphasis on skills development, problem solving, using technology and application of these skills in creative and imaginative ways.

## Course Assessment

Assessment for Higher 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

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](#)





# Art and Design Advanced Higher



## Course Content

This course provides an opportunity for students to pursue their interests in Art & Design in S6, through a personal choice of theme. You will create a presentation of work which will either be an Expressive or Design Unit, alongside a written assignment. Work done during the course can be used as the basis of a folio presentation for Further Education or Art College courses

## Course Assessment

The practical and written critical work will be continuously assessed throughout the course and will then be sent to SQA for external assessment.

## Progression

Pathways towards college, university and careers in Art and Design.

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

[Art and Design](#)

[Careers in Art and Design](#)





# Biology Higher



## Course Content

The Higher Biology course consists of three main units:

DNA and the Genome

Metabolism and Survival

Sustainability and Interdependence

## Course Assessment

Assessment includes a practical assignment which contributes 20% to the overall grade and a written final exam.

## Progression

Progression will be to Advanced Higher Biology.

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

[Biology](#)





# Biology

## Advanced Higher



### Course Content

There are 4 main units in the Advanced Higher Biology Course:

1. Cell and Molecular Biology
2. Organisms and Populations
3. Biodiversity and the Applications of Biology
4. Investigative Biology (Research Project)

### Course Assessment

Assessment for this course is a practical research project contributing 25% to the overall grade and a final exam

### Progression

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

[Biology](#)





# Business Management Higher



## Course Content

The course consists of five areas of study:

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

## Course Assessment

The course is assessed using two components

**Question Paper** – This is undertaken under exam conditions. The question paper has a total mark allocation of 90 marks. This is 75% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

**Assignment** - Candidates research and analyse information and produce a business report using given headings. The assignment has a total mark allocation of 30 marks. This is 25% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

## Progression

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

[Business Management](#)





# Chemistry Higher



## Course Content

There are 3 main units In the Higher Chemistry course:

- 1) Chemical changes and structure
- 2) Natures Chemistry
- 3) Chemistry in Society

## Course Assessment

Assessment includes a practical assignment which contributes to 20% of the overall grade and a final exam.

## Progression

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

[Chemistry](#)





# Chemistry Advanced Higher



## Course Content

Advanced Higher Chemistry is not offered on premises but will be offered through Angus Academy.

## Course Assessment

## Progression

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

[Chemistry](#)





# Communication and Introduction to Literature Level 6



## Course Content

Communication and Literature is designed to provide opportunities to develop skills in understanding, analysing, evaluating and using complex, formal English in a range of written and spoken forms.

Students will study a variety of fiction and non-fiction written texts as well media texts such as films and speeches.

This course is ideal for pupils who have achieved grade C at National 5 English. It can be taken as an alternative to Higher English or as a pathway for pupils who intend to take Higher in S6.

## Course Assessment

Pupils will complete a number of internal assessments over the course of the year. There is no end-of-year exam. These assessments will include solo and group talks, listening, RUAE and textual analysis. Written assessments will cover a variety of formats such as report and essays.

## Progression

Higher English / National 5 Media





# Computer Games Development

## Level 5/Level 6



### 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 Higher



## Course Content

Three units which cover the following topics:

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

## Course Assessment

Pupils will sit a 2 hour 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

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

[Computing Science](#)





# Professional Theatre Preparation NPA Level 6



## Course Content

Students will combine units in 'Acting Skills' and 'Preparation for Audition' in order to complete a National Progression Award in Professional Theatre Preparation.

Pupils will develop knowledge and understanding in the Performing Arts and broaden their practical experience through a range of practical activities and written evaluations. Units focus on practical music and drama skills and require commitment, good attendance and an ability to take responsibility for independent research/study.

## Course Assessment

- Internally assessed.
- Practical Performance/Written unit assessments (essays).
- There is no external exam. (Pass / Fail).

## Progression

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

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

[Drama](#)





# English Higher



## Course Content

The course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills. In particular:

- 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
- to create and produce texts, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- apply knowledge and understanding of language

Texts studied include poetry by Carol Ann Duff, novels such as *The Great Gatsby* and plays such as *Othello* and *The Crucible*

## Course Assessment

The Higher English 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%).

Grade A or B at National 5 English is required as entry to the Higher English course,

## Progression

Progression will be to Advanced Higher in S6.

**Link to more information:**

[Higher English](#)





# English Advanced Higher



## Course Content

### **Analysis and Evaluation**

Learners will provide evidence of their ability to critically respond to previously studied complex and sophisticated texts, and of their ability to carry out an independent study into an aspect or aspects of literature.

### **Creation and Production**

Learners will provide evidence of their writing skills through the production of writing which demonstrates a range of skills necessary for the deployment of language to create effect.

Text studied at Advanced Higher include Jane Eyre, Rebecca, Catcher in the Rye and A Streetcar Named Desire.

## Course Assessment

The assessment comprises a dissertation on novels, plays or poetry of the pupil's choice and a folio piece – either creative or discursive - which are submitted to the SQA (60%) and an exam paper consisting of two papers: Textual Analysis (20%) and Literature (20%).

## Progression

This is an ideal course for pupils who wish to study English Language or Literature at university.

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

[Advanced Higher English](#)





# ESOL Higher



## 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 Higher will sit SQA external assessments on reading, writing, talking and listening. This is the equivalent of Higher English.

## Progression

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

[ESOL](#)



# Fashion and Textiles Technology Higher



## Course Content

The course is practical and experiential, enabling candidates to:

- analyse and apply understanding of **textile properties and characteristics**
- demonstrate and apply understanding of **textile construction techniques** to make complex fashion/textile items
- investigate **issues which influence the fashion/textile industry and consumers**
- apply understanding of the impact of fashion trends on the fashion/textile industry
- develop research, planning, presentation and evaluation skills to produce complex fashion/textile items in response to given briefs

## Course Assessment

**Question paper 45 marks** (1 hour and 30 minutes) - this is based on the three units of work completed over the year

**Assignment 46 marks** (completed during class) - this is a research project, design of a textile item and evaluation of the suitability to meet the brief

**Practical activity 36 marks** (completed during class) - this is an opportunity to show off your excellent sewing skills

## Progression

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

[Fashion and Textiles Technology](#)





# French Higher



## Course Content

Knowing another language is an essential skill for the 21st century and enables learners to play a fuller part as global citizens. This course enables learners to further develop language skills in the following key topic areas:

**Society** - Family structures and relationships, French festivals, Social Networks, Citizenship, Technology

**Learning** - Why learn languages, Learning styles, School systems

**Employability** - Career paths, Future plans, Gap Year, Working abroad

**Culture** - Travel, Living abroad, Language exchanges, Multicultural society

## Course Assessment

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

Paper 1 - Reading/Directed 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 in another language.

Link to more information and career pathways:

[Higher](#)





# Geography Higher



## Course Content

**Physical Environments:** This unit teaches geographic skills, and a knowledge and understanding of physical environments. Learners will understand processes and interactions at work within physical environments on a local, regional and global scale through focus on four topics: atmosphere; hydrosphere; lithosphere and biosphere.

**Human Environments:** This unit teaches geographical skills, knowledge and understanding of human environments. Learners will develop and apply knowledge and understanding on processes and interactions at work within urban and rural environments in developed and developing countries and at a local, regional and global scale. The unit covers three topics: population, rural and urban.

**Global Issues:** This unit will see learners develop and apply geographical skills, knowledge and understanding to a variety of global geographical issues linked to sustainable development. They will focus on applying knowledge and understanding of significant global geographic issues which demonstrate the interaction of physical and human factors, and evaluate strategies adopted in the management of these issues.

## Course Assessment

The question paper will require demonstration of a breadth of skills, knowledge and understanding from across the Course. The assignment will require learners to extend and apply their skills, knowledge and understanding and will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice. The Geography skills of using and interpreting maps and other data and interpreting and analysing numerical and graphical information will be assessed in the question paper. The question paper will be marked out of 100 for Paper One and 60 for Paper Two. Over both Components of the Course assessment there will be broad parity between the assessment of skills, knowledge and understanding. The question paper Component of the Course assessment will have a greater emphasis on the assessment of knowledge and understanding than the assignment. The other marks will be awarded for the demonstration of skills. The Global Issues Section will have a choice of contexts from which learners will choose two.

## Progression

Possible progression to Advanced Higher Geography with Higher grades A-B or by negotiation with other grades via the Angus Academy system.

## [Geography](#)



# German Higher



## Course Content

Knowing another language is an essential skill for the 21st century and enables learners to play a fuller part as global citizens. This course enables learners to further develop language skills in the following key topic areas:

**Society** - Lifestyles, Media, Relationships

**Learning** - School subjects, Exam stress, Advantages and disadvantages of university

**Employability** - Career paths, Future plans, Advantages and disadvantages of part-time jobs

**Culture** - Travel, Advantages and disadvantages of learning a language

## Course Assessment

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

Paper 1 - Reading/Directed 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 in another language.

Link to more information and career pathways:

[Higher](#)





# Graphic Communication Higher



## Course Content

**2D Graphic Communication** - Develop creativity and presentation skills within a 2D graphic communication context. Initiate, plan, develop and communicate ideas graphically, using two-dimensional graphic techniques.

**3D and Pictorial Graphic Communication** - Develop creativity and presentation skills within a 3D and pictorial graphic communication context. Initiate, plan, develop and communicate ideas graphically, using three-dimensional graphic techniques.

## Course Assessment

Pupils will sit a 2 hour 30 minute question paper worth 64% 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 36% of the course award.

## Progression

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

[Graphic Communication](#)





# Graphic Communication Advanced Higher



## Course Content

The course has two areas of study:

**Technical graphics** - explore the purpose, application and audience requirements of technical graphics and explore the use of detailed 2D and 3D graphics in modelling, graphic visualisation and technical/mechanical animation.

**Commercial and visual media graphics** - create effective commercial and visual media graphic communications and explore their application in publishing and promotion.

## Course Assessment

A practical project worth 50% of the overall course award followed by a written exam that makes up the remaining 50%

## Progression

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

[Graphic Communication](#)





# History Higher



## Course Content

**Britain 1851-1951:** the reasons why Britain became more democratic, 1851–1928 how democratic Britain became, 1867–1928 the reasons why some women were given the vote in 1918, the reasons why the Liberals introduced social welfare reforms, 1906–14 the effectiveness of the Liberal social welfare reforms, the effectiveness of the Labour reforms, 1945–51 **USA, 1918–68** • An evaluation of the reasons for changing attitudes towards immigration in the 1920s • An evaluation of the obstacles to the achievement of civil rights for black people up to 1941 • An evaluation of the reasons for the economic crisis of 1929–33 • An assessment of the effectiveness of the New Deal • An evaluation of the reasons for the development of the Civil Rights campaign, after 1945 • An assessment of the effectiveness of the Civil Rights movement in meeting the needs of black Americans, up to 1968 **Migration and Empire, 1830–1939** The migration of Scots The experience of immigrants in Scotland The impact of Scots emigrants on the Empire The effects of migration and empire on Scotland, to 1939 A wide variety of teaching and learning methods are used on this course including individual and group research, presentations, source analysis and essay writing.

## Course Assessment

Component 1 — question papers 80 marks

Paper 1 : Historical Study: British (22 marks)

Paper 1: Historical Study: European and World (22 marks)

Paper 2 : Historical Study: Scottish (36 marks)

Component 2 — assignment 30 marks

Total marks 110 marks

## Progression

Possible progression to Advanced Higher History with Higher grades A-B or by negotiation.

[History](#)





# History

## Advanced Higher



### Course Content

The course is called Britain: at war and peace, 1938–51 This involves a study of the Second World War period and deals with significant issues such as: • Britain on the eve of war • Britain at war including the wartime government and military, naval and air strategies • Domestic impact of war including the Blitz, evacuation and the impact on women • Britain in the post-war world The course will be taught through both formal and informal classroom activities and pupils will be expected to develop and show excellent reading and research skills. The course is designed to provide a 'bridge' for students, allowing them to develop knowledge and skills that may be useful for those who go on to Higher education. The course is assessed by an examination that includes both essay writing and source based questions and there is a research dissertation which represents a little over a third of the total mark for the course.

### Course Assessment

Question paper 90 marks The question paper has a total mark allocation of 90 marks. This is 64% of the overall marks for the course assessment. The question paper draws on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired during the course.

Part A — Historical issues □ two extended-response questions, requiring candidates to draw on the skills, knowledge and understanding they have acquired during the course.

Part B — Historical sources □ three extended-response questions, requiring candidates to use the skills, knowledge and understanding they have acquired during the course and apply these to unseen historical sources

Project–dissertation 50 marks The project–dissertation has a total mark allocation of 50 marks. This is 36% of the overall marks for the course assessment. The project–dissertation enables candidates to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding by undertaking independent research into a complex historical issue.

### Progression

This course is good preparation for degree level History studies.

[History](#)



# Mathematics Higher



## Course Content

Higher Mathematics is designed to deepen students' understanding of mathematical concepts and enhance their problem-solving abilities. It serves as a foundation for further studies in mathematics, engineering, and sciences. The course is structured into three main units:

- **Expressions and Functions:** Algebra (polynomials, exponentials, logarithmics), Trigonometry (addition and double-angle formulae, identities and functions) and Functions (composite, inverse and sketching)
- **Relationships and Calculus:** Equations (quadratics and polynomials), Calculus (differentiation and integration)
- **Applications:** Geometry (straight lines and circles), Recurrence Relations, Applications of Calculus (optimisation and area between curves)

## Course Assessment

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

Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) – 55 marks

Paper 2 (Calculator) – 65 marks

## Progression

Progression will be to Advanced Higher Mathematics.

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

[Mathematics](#)





# Mathematics Advanced Higher



## Course Content

Advanced Higher Mathematics is designed to deepen and extend the mathematical skills acquired at the Higher level, preparing students for further study in mathematics, engineering, and related fields. The course is structured into several key areas:

- **Calculus:** Differentiation and Integration
- **Algebra, Proof, and Number Theory:** Sequences and Series, Proof Techniques, Number Theory
- **Matrices, Vectors, and Complex Numbers**

## Course Assessment

Pupils will sit an SQA exams

Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) - 35 marks

Paper 2 (Calculator) - 80 marks

## Progression

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

[Mathematics](#)





# Media Studies Higher



## Course Content

This course offers learners the opportunity improve their knowledge of media and its place in our society. Learners will study a variety of media texts such as film and television, social media, and advertising. Learners will develop skills including: communication, independent learning, critical literacy, independent learning, team-working, and creative thinking.

**Analysing Media Content:** The purpose of this unit is to develop the knowledge and skills required to analyse media content. This unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop, through studying examples of media: knowledge and understanding of media contexts, the role of the media, and 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 knowledge and skills to plan and create media content, 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

Learners will be assessed on the ability to analyse and create sophisticated media content, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context. In particular:

- knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of media literacy
- knowledge and understanding of the role of media within society
- the ability to evaluate and form opinions on media texts using key terminology
- the ability to plan and research when creating media content, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- the ability to evaluate the learners' practice.

The units in this course will be assessed externally in a final exam and an assignment completed throughout the year sent to the SQA. Both the examination and the completed assignment are worth 50% of the overall grade.

## Progression

**Link to more information:**

[Higher Media](#)





# Modern Studies Higher



## Course Content

The course consists of three areas of study: **Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom**, including possible alternatives for the governance of Scotland, effectiveness of parliamentary representatives in holding government to account and ways in which citizens can influence government decision-making, including pressure groups. **Social inequality in the United Kingdom, including**, reasons why income and wealth inequalities exist, and effectiveness of measures taken to tackle inequalities, and **International issues: Underdevelopment in sub-Saharan Africa**, including social, economic and political factors which have caused the issue and effectiveness of international organisations in tackling the issue.

## Course Assessment

- Question paper 1 52 marks. This is 47% of the overall marks for the course assessment. This question paper allows candidates to demonstrate application of the following skills and breadth of knowledge and understanding by writing an essay on a question from each of the three units.
- Question paper 2 28 marks. This is 26% of the overall marks for the course assessment. Candidates answer questions using a variety of source materials.
- Assignment 30 marks. This is 27% of the overall marks for the course assessment. Candidates research a social issue and write up their findings under exam conditions.

## Progression

Higher Modern Studies can act as a qualification towards a range of destinations including higher education. Advanced Higher Modern Studies may be available via the Angus Academy system.



# Music Higher



## 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 for Higher Music is Grade 4.

## Course Assessment

Assessment for Higher 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 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

## Advanced Higher



### 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 deepen your understanding of music concepts 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 for Advanced Higher Music is Grade 5.

### Course Assessment

Assessment for Higher Music involves a performing exam in March/April, 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 you must also write an original composition and assignment on a piece of your choice which is centrally marked by SQA and is worth 15% of your final award.

### Progression

Progression is on to 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 Higher



## 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 one project which demonstrates a range of music technology skills including recording techniques, MIDI sequencing and mixing processes. You will develop skills which will allow you to plan, implement and evaluate this project, using your creativity to produce unique work. You will develop your understanding of musical concepts and effects and processes, as well as music technology concepts and technological developments.

## Course Assessment

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

You may 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](#)





# Musical Theatre

## Level 6



### Course Content

This course is designed for pupils who enjoy singing, acting and dancing and would like to develop their skills in musical theatre.

During the course, you will:

- Take part in practical workshops
- Learn how to perform songs in character and bring stories to life on stage
- Build confidence performing solo and in groups
- Practise rehearsal skills, teamwork and creative thinking
- Prepare for and take part in a mock audition
- Watch, discuss and evaluate performances, including your own work

### Course Assessment

Assessment in this course is mostly practical and based on the work you complete in class.

You will be assessed through:

- Performance activities
- Taking part in solo and group performances
- Rehearsal and preparation work, including effort and teamwork
- A mock audition performance
- Short written or spoken reflections where you review your own progress

There is no final exam. Your overall result is based on successfully completing the course units.

### Progression

- College courses in Musical Theatre, Performing Arts, Music or Drama (NC, HNC or HND level)
- University study in a performing arts subject
- Opportunities in the creative industries, such as performing, backstage work or community arts, including school show



# PC Passport Level 5/Level 6



## 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 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.



# Personal Finance

## Level 5

(with National 5 Numeracy)



### Course Content

The Personal Finance Award at SCQF level 5 will develop knowledge and skills to cope confidently and effectively with financial matters individuals are likely to encounter in life beyond school. The award will prepare pupils for financial decision making and managing personal finances throughout their lives, for example, student loans & pensions.

The award covers a range of topics, including calculating and comparing costs, household budgeting, different forms of borrowing, tax and National Insurance, credit cards, bank accounts, exchange rates, interest and inflation rates.

This course focuses on mathematical skills used in daily life, therefore is highly relevant for pupils. There is no final examination for this course.

In addition to this qualification, when choosing the Personal Finance Award, pupils will also be taught and assessed at National 5 numeracy.

### Course Assessment

To achieve L5 Personal Finance learners must pass two end-of-unit e-assessment tests using SOLAR (SQA's e-assessment system).

N5 Numeracy is an internal unit assessment.

### Progression

From L5 Personal Finance in S5 pupils can progress to N5 Applications of Maths in S6.





# Photography Higher



## 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

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 Higher



## 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
- Main activities covered – Basketball, Volleyball, Swimming, Badminton and Fitness.

## Course Assessment

Learners will have to complete the following two assessments:

- Two internally assessed One-off Practical Performance Assessments (30 marks each)
- A 2.5hr exam at the end of the year (50 marks)

Each element will be worth 50% of the course.

## Progression



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

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





# Physical Education Advanced Higher



## Course Content

Advanced Higher PE is designed to deepen and extend the knowledge and understanding acquired at the Higher level.

The aims of the course is to enable learners to:

- Develop a broad and comprehensive range of complex movement and performance skills, and demonstrate them safely and effectively in a challenging context
- Select and apply skills by making informed decisions in a physical activity
- Understand how skills, techniques and strategies combine to produce an effective performance
- Investigate the impact of mental, emotional, social and physical factors on performance and the process of performance development
- Understand and apply approaches to develop performance

## Course Assessment

Learners will have to complete the following two assessments:

A 5000 word project consisting of 4 sections marked by SQA (70 marks)

One internally assessed One-off Practical Performance Assessment (30 marks)

The overall grade is made up of 70% project and 30% one-off performance

## Progression



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

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





# Physics Higher



## Course Content

The Higher Physics course consists of 3 main units:

- 1) Our Dynamic Universe
- 2) Particles and Waves
- 3) Electricity

## Course Assessment

Assessment comprises of a practical assignment which contributes 20% to the overall grade and a final exam.

## Progression

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

[Physics](#)



# Professional Theatre Preparation Level 6



## Course Content

This National Progression Award (NPA) is designed for students who would like to develop their acting skills and potentially pursue a career in the performing arts. It focuses on the practical and professional demands of the theatre industry.

The course is made up of two mandatory units:

- Preparation for Audition
- Drama: Acting Skills

## Course Assessment

There is no external final exam for this NPA. Instead, you are assessed on a continuous basis through practical performances and supporting evidence:

- Performance-Based: The majority of your grade comes from "live" assessments where you perform your audition pieces and demonstrate your acting skills in front of your teacher.
- Folio/Logbooks: You will keep a record of your progress, including research on your chosen plays, character analyses, and self-evaluations of your rehearsals and final performances.
- Pass/Fail: Each unit is assessed as a Pass or Fail. To achieve the full NPA, you must successfully pass all required units. Assessments are marked internally by your teacher and verified by QS.

## Progression

Completing the NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation opens up several pathways for your future in the arts:

- Higher Drama
- Pursuing Drama at college/university
- Industry: A stepping-stone toward community theatre, youth theatre leadership, or entry-level roles in the creative industries.



# Psychology Higher



## Course Content

Higher Psychology comprises of 3 main units:

- 1) Individual Behaviour – this includes the mandatory topic of Sleep & Dreams and one of the optional topics (depression, memory or stress) decided by the teacher.
- 2) Social Behaviour – this included the mandatory topic of Conformity & Obedience and one of the optional topics (prejudice, social relationships or aggression) decided by the teacher
- 3) Investigative Psychology – this will inform the basis for the practical assignment

## Course Assessment

Assessment for this course includes a practical assignment worth 1/3 of the overall grade and a final exam.

## Progression



# RMPS Higher



## Course Content

**World Religion:** show in-depth knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practices analyse the relationship between different religious beliefs; the relationship between religious beliefs and practices; and the purpose of living according to religious beliefs and practices; evaluate the significance, relevance and impact of religious beliefs and practices.

**Morality and Belief:** show in-depth knowledge and understanding of morality and justice; analyse religious and non-religious responses to morality and justice; evaluate religious and non-religious responses to morality and justice.

**Religious and Philosophical Questions:** show in-depth knowledge and understanding of the question and responses, including religious and non-religious responses; apply the skills of analysis and evaluation to the question and responses present a reasoned conclusion to the question . Pupils will cover the topic: Existence of God? What arguments/theories do religious people use to prove the existence of God?

## Course Assessment

The exam is assessed by over two question papers totalling 80 marks.

Section 1: World Religion (30 marks)

Section 2: Morality and Belief (30 marks)

Section 3 Religious and Philosophical Questions (20 marks)

Pupils also complete an assignment on a question of their choice. This is worth 30 marks.

## Progression

Higher RMPS can act as a qualification towards a range of destinations including higher education.

[RMPS](#)





# Scientific Technologies Level 6



## Course Content

This level 6 NPA comprises of 4 main units:

- 1) Laboratory Safety
- 2) Mathematics for Science 2
- 3) Fundamental Chemistry: An Introduction
- 4) Experimental Procedures: Science

## Course Assessment

The assessment for this course comprises of continuous assessment including an end of unit assessment for each unit and practical assessments throughout. There is no final exam.

## Progression

Progression from this course includes HNC in Applied Sciences or multiple modern apprenticeships in life science industries.





# Scottish Studies

## Level 6



### Course Content

Scottish Studies is a taught course which includes elements of History, Geography and Travel & Tourism.

The History unit investigates the factors behind the Treaty of Union in 1707 and uses sources to evaluate its effects up to 1750.

The Geography element looks at Scottish landscapes, geomorphology and modern land use patterns and conflicts.

The Travel & Tourism element investigates the Scottish tourism offer, looking at various destinations and points of interest for visitors.

### Course Assessment

This is a non-exam course. There is no externally examined final exam.

Candidates must pass Level 6 (Higher level) unit assessments during their studies in each of the three subject elements.

Candidates must also submit a "Scotland in Focus" research project on a chosen aspect of Scotland from the past or the present.

### Progression

This course can offer an alternative route into Higher Geography or Higher History for pupils who have not achieved the entry requirements for these courses.

For example, a pupils gaining a C6 at National 5 Geography, who successfully passes Level 6 Scottish Studies in S5, could progress to Higher Geography in S6.





# Spanish Higher



## Course Content

Knowing another language is an essential skill for the 21st century and enables learners to play a fuller part as global citizens. This course enables learners to further develop language skills in the following key topic areas:

**Society** - Family structures and relationships, Social Networks

**Learning** - Learning Languages, Learning styles

**Employability** - Career paths and future plans, Applying for a job

**Culture** - Travel, Language exchanges and doing a gap year

## Course Assessment

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

Paper 1 - Reading/Directed 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 in another language.

Link to more information and career pathways:

[Higher](#)





# Sports Coaching Level 6



## Course Content

The **Level 6 NPA in Sports Coaching** is designed for learners who are interested in becoming coaches within various sporting environments. This course takes a practical, hands-on approach, with much of the learning happening in real coaching environments.

Learners will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of coaching by leading the planning, delivery, and review of coaching sessions, all while working independently. Learners will gain knowledge on how to create a safe and effective coaching environment, set up equipment, meet participants' needs, and work as part of a coaching team.

By the end of the course, learners should be confident in delivering their own coaching sessions and ready to take on coaching roles within different contexts.

## Course Assessment

This course is assessed across 2 different units with various types of Assessment outcomes.

### **Unit 1: L6 Sports Coaching: Knowing Yourself and Knowing Others**

**Outcome 1** - Explain the roles and responsibilities of a coach.

**Outcome 2** - Explain what underpins a coaching philosophy and how this influences coaching practice.

**Outcome 3** - Develop self-awareness of personal coaching practice.

**Outcome 4** - Explain why a coach is required to understand the needs of participants.

### **Unit 2: L6 Sports Coaching: Knowing Coaching**

**Outcome 1** - Explain different coaching and learning principles

**Outcome 2** - Create session plans to respond to the needs and expectations of participants during coaching sessions

**Outcome 3** - Prepare the physical environment and equipment to meet the required safety standards.

**Outcome 4** - Lead the delivery of coaching sessions.

**Outcome 5** - Demonstrate working as a coaching team.

**Outcome 6** - Review the delivery of coaching sessions.

## Progression

This course may provide progression to: Higher National Certificates/Diplomas in areas such as Sports Coaching, Sports & Exercise or Health and Fitness. University Degrees in areas such as Physical Education, Physical Activity and Health, Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Development or Sports Psychology. Further study and employment and/or training related to personal training or health promotion and knowledge that can lead to routes into uniform services/Army/Police/Fire Brigade/Ambulance Service



# Travel and Tourism

## Level 6



### Course Content

Level 6 Travel and Tourism is a National Progression Award (NPA) consisting of four units:

- Travel and Tourism in the UK: This unit serves as an introduction to the subject and covers key terminology of the travel and tourism industry, knowledge of various tourism organisations, and the understanding of the benefits of tourism activities.
- The Scottish Tourism Product: This unit involves identifying key geographical and physical features, tourist areas and centres in Scotland on a map. It will also look into the appeal of major tourist destinations within Scotland.
- Sustainable Practices in Travel and Tourism: This unit will explore the principles of sustainable development in travel and tourism activities, analyse the impact of tourism and investigate the strategies that could be used to minimise the negative impacts of tourism activities.
- Leisure and Business Destinations: This unit involves locating specific leisure and business tourism destinations and attractions on a map. It also includes planning leisure and business touring programmes and travel itineraries for customers.

### Course Assessment

This course does not have an exam, but all assessments/reports for each unit must be fully completed and passed in order to achieve the full qualification.

Assessments will be in one of two formats throughout the units:

- Closed book and open book assessments under timed conditions (only one re-assessment permitted).
- Written reports/oral presentations in electronic format (to industry standard – i.e. a strong literacy skill requirement).

### Progression

The Level 6 NPA Travel and Tourism qualification would be a suitable progression pathway for any pupil interested in pursuing a career in the tourism sector, including possible (but not limited to) areas of employment such as: Airports/Airlines, Shipping/Ferry/Cruise companies, Car Rental Firms, Coach Companies, Tourist Boards, Tourist Information Centres, Visitor Attractions, Guiding, Accommodation Providers, Travel Agencies and Tour Operating Firms.

Included within the award are skills both specific to travel and tourism but also transferable skills including customer care, skills for employment and marketing which can be applied to other industries/jobs.