

Course Outlines – English

National 4 English

The main purpose of the N4 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. As learners develop their literacy skills, they will be able to process information more easily, apply knowledge of language in practical and relevant contexts, and gain confidence to undertake new and more challenging tasks in a variety of situations. The course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills.

This Course is made up of four mandatory Units. The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their listening, talking, reading and writing skills in order to understand and use language. The four Units include the four language skills of listening, talking, reading and writing. The structure of the Units enables learners to focus on the skills required to understand and use language and to integrate listening, talking, reading and writing skills across the Units. Each Unit also offers opportunities for learners to focus on particular skills. Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 4)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop listening and reading skills in the contexts of literature, language and media. Learners develop the skills needed to understand, analyse and evaluate straightforward texts.

English: Creation and Production (National 4)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop talking and writing skills in familiar contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to create and produce straightforward texts in both written and oral forms.

Literacy (National 4)

The purpose of this Unit is to develop the learners' reading, writing, listening and talking skills in a variety of forms relevant for learning, life and work. Learners develop the ability to understand straightforward ideas and information presented orally and in writing. Learners also develop the ability to communicate ideas and information orally and in writing with technical accuracy.

Added Value Unit: English Assignment (National 4)

The purpose of this Added Value Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to apply their language skills to investigate and report on a chosen topic. This assignment will allow the learner to demonstrate challenge and application.

To achieve the National 4 English Course, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit. National 4 Courses are not graded.

National 5 English

In the National 5 English course, there is an emphasis on the development and application of key language skills closely associated with literacy and communication. Language skills have personal, social and economic value and importance. Our ability to use language, and to communicate, lies at the centre of the development and expression of our emotions, our thinking, and our sense of personal identity. It is generally accepted that language competence helps to unlock learning across all subjects. This course provides candidates with the opportunity to develop skills in reading, writing, talking and listening. Consequently, candidates should be able to understand, analyse, evaluate, and use, detailed language for a range of purposes in practical and relevant contexts.

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

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

The assessment of the course comprises an external examination and a portfolio.

Paper One is Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation and is worth 30 marks (30%)

Paper Two is the Textual Analysis and Critical Essay and is worth 20 marks respectively, or 40% of the overall mark.

The portfolio is comprised of two essays (one broadly creative and one broadly discursive) and is worth 30 marks (30%).

The course is awarded A-D.

Higher English

The Higher English course provides candidates with the opportunity to develop the skills of reading, writing, talking and listening in order to understand and to use language which is detailed and complex in nature.

The course offers candidates opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills with growing independence. The main aims of the course are to enable candidates to develop the ability to:

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

The assessment of the course comprises an external examination and a portfolio.

Paper One is Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation and is worth 30 marks (30%)

Paper Two is the Textual Analysis and Critical Essay and is worth 20 marks respectively, or 40% of the overall mark.

The portfolio is comprised of two essays (one broadly creative and one broadly discursive) and is worth 30 marks (30%).

The course is awarded A-D.

Advanced Higher English

The course provides candidates with the opportunity to develop the skills of reading, writing, talking and listening in the context of complex and sophisticated literature and language. The main aims of the course are to enable candidates to develop the ability to:

- ◆ read, write, talk and listen in complex and sophisticated contexts, as appropriate to purpose and audience
- ◆ understand, analyse, evaluate, and make connections between complex and sophisticated literary texts
- ◆ create and produce written texts as appropriate to purpose, audience and context, through the application of knowledge and understanding of complex and sophisticated language

The broad structure of the course assessment allows candidates to demonstrate these skills in a balanced way, although the importance of reading is emphasised and candidates are encouraged to read widely.

This course is designed for those who are at the stage in their learning when they are ready to develop language skills at SCQF level 7. They are likely to have achieved the Higher English course. It is suitable for candidates who wish to develop their critical and creative language skills through the reading, writing and discussion of complex and sophisticated texts. They should be able to work with growing independence, and use their own initiative under minimal supervision.

It provides candidates with opportunities to develop important transferable skills. These include:

- ◆ skills of analysis and evaluation
- ◆ the ability to make evidence-based critical judgements
- ◆ independent learning
- ◆ the capacity for wide reading and intellectual growth
- ◆ the ability to produce a variety of written-response types
- ◆ planning, researching and writing an extensive critical assignment

The course provides a clear progressive pathway for candidates who wish to go on to study English literature, language or other disciplines in further and higher education. Through the acquisition of a set of advanced communication skills, the course offers a link to many vocational settings, for example writing, teaching, research, publishing, journalism, law, marketing, media, industry, commerce, public relations, cultural and public service industries.

