



OPTIONS BOOKLET 2025-26

S2 into S3/4

Please click on the subject or department / faculty you are interested in.

[Introduction](#)

English Department

[English National 5](#)

Mathematics Department

[Mathematics National 5](#)

[Application of Mathematics National 4](#)

[Application of Mathematics National 5](#)

Art & Design Department

[Art & Design National 5](#)

[Visual Communication SCQF Lvl 5](#)

Music Department

[Music National 4 / 5](#)

Health & Wellbeing Faculty

[Practical Cookery National 4](#)

[Practical Cookery National 5](#)

[Physical Education National 4](#)

[Physical Education National 5](#)

[Fashion & Textiles National 5](#)

Science Faculty

[Biology National 4 /5](#)

[Chemistry National 5](#)

[Physics National 5](#)

Computing & Business Education Faculty

[Administration & IT National 5](#)

[Business Studies National 5](#)

[Computing Science National 5](#)

Design & Technology Department

[Design & Manufacture National 5](#)

[Graphic Communication National 5](#)

[Practical Woodwork National 5](#)

Humanities Faculty

[Geography National 4](#)

[Geography National 5](#)

[History National 4](#)

[History National 5](#)

[Modern Studies National 4](#)

[Modern Studies National 5](#)

Modern Languages Department

[French National 4 / 5](#)

[Spanish National 4 / 5](#)

[German National 4 / 5](#)

Please note additional information of National 4 and 5 qualifications can be found on the SQA's web site:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html>

Dear Pupil,

Making the right course choices for S3 and S4 is a very important part of your educational progress.

The choices that you make at this time are important to your educational future and your possible career thereafter. It is important that you take the option choice process seriously and that you give it your full attention and commitment. It is important that your course choices are based on full and accurate information.

This document is an important part of the options process and contains details of each of the courses on offer this year. You should read it carefully and use this information to help guide you in choosing the right subject for you.

The school website also has a range of information to guide you through the options process, including the curriculum structure, timescales for this year's options and information about compulsory subjects such as English.

<https://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/parents/2023-2024-options-process/>

Further information can also be found on the SQA website, where you can search for subject specific information.

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html>

You should also discuss your course choices with your family, friends and subject teachers as this will give you more opportunities to think through your decisions. You will of course receive advice and support from staff in the school.

All S2 pupils will have a meeting with their Pastoral Teacher to discuss preferred options and help pupils make their final decision.

Pupils and parents / carers may also find it useful to access the My World of Work website for additional help and guidance.

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

Options choices are really important to your future. Think carefully before you make any decisions and remember if you have any questions please ask for advice.

Mr N Henderson

Depute Head Teacher



ENGLISH

COURSE OUTLINE

The English National 5 course will give you the opportunity to learn how to read detailed texts in order to understand, analyse and evaluate in familiar contexts and develop the skills to listen to detailed language in order to understand, analyse and evaluate in familiar contexts.

In addition, you will learn how to develop and extend talking and writing skills in a wide range of contexts. You will develop the skills needed to create and produce texts in both written and oral forms.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

Demonstrated Level 3 or above in S2

Or

Passed National 4 English

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

English National 5 SCQF Level 5:

Components 1,2 and 3 will be externally marked and will contain:

Component 1: Question paper – Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (30%)

Component 2: Question paper – Critical Reading (40%) (Learners will answer at least one question on a Scottish text)

Component 3: Portfolio-writing (30%)

Component 4 will be internally assessed and is mandatory

Component 4: Performance-spoken language (achieved/not achieved)

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Portfolio piece (800—1000 words)
- Final Exam

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

Being competent in English is the key to success in many aspects of life and work. Skills in English language and communication are important in many school, college and university courses and essential in many occupations.

You might go on to do:

- Higher English
- Literature and Communication



MATHS

COURSE OUTLINE

The National 5 Mathematics course aims to build upon skills learned within the curriculum for excellence and extend candidates' mathematical thinking. You will be given the opportunity to develop problem-solving skills with emphasis being placed on developing an appreciation of the power of mathematical language and the efficiency of algorithms in preparation for the Higher course.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

Demonstrated Level 4 in S2

Or

Passed National 4 Maths

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 Mathematics SCQF Level 5:

- Expressions and Formulae
- Applications
- Relationships

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Final Exam:
- Question paper 1 (non-calculator) 40 marks
- Question paper 2 (calculator) 50 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

The skills and knowledge of mathematics gained at National 5 level is useful in many scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical (STEM) contexts.

You might go on to do:

- Higher Mathematics
- A full time higher education course, such as a Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND) or degree
- The level you might enter would depend on the level and relevance of your other qualifications.

COURSE OUTLINE

The National 4 Applications of Mathematics Course builds on the principles and practice and experiences and outcomes of mathematics and numeracy.

This Course allows learners to acquire and develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work, as well as the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities. For example: success in mathematical learning leads to increased confidence as an individual in everyday situations; being numerically capable, especially in financial matters, helps towards becoming a responsible citizen; and being able to plan and organise will help in becoming an effective contributor. The skills, knowledge and understanding developed in this Course support learning in other curriculum areas such as technology, health and wellbeing, science, and social studies.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

Demonstrated Level 3 or above in S2

Or

Passed National 3 Applications of Mathematics

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

- National 4 Applications of Mathematics SCQF level 4:
- Managing Finance and Statistics
- Geometry and Measures
- Numeracy
- Added Value Unit—Mathematics Test

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Course award is achieved by passing all mandatory units and completing the added value unit. All units are internally assessed.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- National 5 Applications of Mathematics
- Personal finance SCQF level 5

COURSE OUTLINE

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

The National 5 Applications of Mathematics course explores the applications of mathematical techniques and skills in everyday situations, including financial matters, statistics, and measurement. The skills, knowledge and understanding in the course also support learning in other curriculum areas, such as technology, health and wellbeing, science, and social studies.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

Passed National 4 Applications of Mathematics or National 4 Maths

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 Applications of Mathematics SCQF level 5:

- analyse real-life situations and problems involving mathematics
- identify valid mathematical operational skills to tackle real-life situations or problems
- select and apply numeracy skills
- select and apply skills in finance, statistics, measurement, geometry, graphical data and probability
- use mathematical reasoning skills to draw conclusions or justify decisions
- communicate mathematical information in an appropriate way

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Final Exam
- Question paper 1 (non-calculator) 35 marks
- Question paper 2 (calculator) 55 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Applications of Mathematics



ART & DESIGN

COURSE OUTLINE

The main purpose of this Course is to provide opportunities for learners to develop their thoughts and ideas before exploring how they can use art and design, media, equipment and materials creatively and expressively. They will develop their problem-solving skills and will be encouraged to explore the creative use of technology when developing and producing art and design work. The Course allows learners develop their practical skills and investigate how artists and designers create and develop their ideas. It also allows learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of art and design practice and develop their critical thinking skills. Reflective skills are also developed through the study of art and design practice which will help to support and inform learners own work. This subject will encourage creative learning through problem solving, independent learning, innovative and collaborative approaches.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

- An interest in Art & Design
- Achieved a level 3 in Art & Design in S2

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 Art and Design SCQF level 5:

- Expressive Folio (100 marks Externally assessed)
- Design Folio (100 marks Externally assessed)
- Question Paper (External exam- 50 marks)

ART AND DESIGN: EXPRESIVE PORTFOLIO

Learners will develop their personal thoughts and ideas in visual form. They will select stimuli and produce analytical drawings and studies. They will develop and refine their expressive ideas and artwork, experimenting with and using a range of materials, techniques and/or technology in 2D and/or 3D formats when responding to stimuli. The expressive portfolio has three sections.

Section 1 titled 'process' has 40 marks.

Section 2 titled 'skills' has 50 marks.

Section 3 titled 'evaluation' has 10 marks.

ART AND DESIGN: DESIGN PORTFOLIO

Learners will plan, research and develop creative design work in response to a design brief. They will develop their creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills as they consider design opportunities, and work to resolve design issues and constraints. They will experiment with, develop and refine their design ideas, using a range of materials, techniques and/or technology in 2D and/or 3D formats. The design portfolio has three sections.

Section 1 titled 'process' has 40 marks.

Section 2 titled 'skills' has 50 marks.

Section 3 titled 'evaluation' has 10 marks.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Art & Design SCQF Level 6
- An Art or Design based college course
- Seek Employment within Art or Design
- You will be skilled in creative thinking and complex problem solving, which are sought after skills for today's workforce.

COURSE OUTLINE

The main purpose of this Course is to provide opportunities for learners to develop their thoughts and ideas within the framework of Graphic Design.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

- An interest in Art & Design
- Achieved a level 3 in Art & Design in S2

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The aim of the National Progression Award in Visual Communications at level 5 is to provide a structured award which creates opportunities for candidates to investigate and experiment with traditional and digital media as part of the design process whilst expanding theoretical knowledge and developing creative solutions to design problems.

Candidates will:

Develop an understanding of Graphic design using traditional media and then go onto develop an understanding of design software packages through the production of a folio of experimental design work. Use the design process through research and development to final design utilising a wide range of media. Develop graphic design skills in response to a given brief.

The award is made up of the following units:

Art and Design: Software Skills

Art and Design: Introduction to Graphic Design

Two-Dimensional Design — The Design Process

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Art & Design SCQF Level 6
- An Art or Design based college course
- Seek Employment within Art or Design
- You will be skilled in creative thinking and complex problem solving, which are sought after skills for today's workforce.



MUSIC

COURSE OUTLINE

The purpose of the National 4 & 5 Music courses is to provide candidates with a broad practical experience of performing, creating and understanding music. The course enables candidates to work independently or in collaboration with others, and can help them to plan and organise, to make decisions and to take responsibility for their own learning.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have:

- Achieved level 3 in S2 Music
- Shown an interest in music or currently play a musical instrument.

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The course aims to enable candidates to:

- broaden their knowledge and understanding of music and musical literacy by listening to music and identifying level-specific music concepts, signs and symbols
- create original music using compositional methods
- perform music

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Music National 4 (N4)

All Units will be internally assessed based on a range of evidence throughout each unit. Units are all pass or fail

Performing Skills

Composing Skills

Understanding Music

Music National 5:

Final marks are awarded in

- **50% Performing: 8-8.30** minutes on 2 instruments assessed in February-March by an SQA visiting examiner.
- **35% Written Understanding:** this is conducted with the full diet of exams in April-

May.

- **15% Composition:** The assignment allows candidates to explore and develop musical ideas to create music. It has two parts: Composing one piece of music and Reviewing the creative process of their composition. This is marked by the SQA.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Music
- A college course in this field.



HEALTH & WELLBEING
FACULTY

COURSE OUTLINE

The National 4 Practical Cookery Course contains a significant practical element. It aims to further develop learners' life skills as well as a range of cookery skills and processes and food preparation techniques. Planning and producing meals and presenting them appropriately, learners develop understanding of ingredients from a variety of different sources, as well as of their uses and responsible sourcing and sustainability. Learners develop understanding of the impact of the choice of ingredients on health and wellbeing and embed food safety and hygiene skills. It also develops organisational skills which have an application in a wide variety of contexts.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have:

- Achieved level 2 in S2
- Demonstrated an interest in cookery

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 4 Practical Cookery

Pupils must complete the following mandatory units to gain the full award.

- Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes
- Understanding and Using Ingredients
- Organisational Skills for Cooking
- Added Value Unit: Producing a Meal.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

All units are internally assessed on a pass or fail basis. All units must be passed to gain the full award.

- Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes—cookery assessment.
- Understanding and Using Ingredients—written and cookery assessment.
- Organisational Skills for Cooking—written and cookery assessment.
- Added Value Unit: Producing a Meal. Two course meal. Written booklet.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- National 5 Practical Cookery
- Hospitality Skills for Work at Level 5 or similar subjects within Home Economics
- Further study at college
- Seek employment in an Apprenticeship in this field.

COURSE OUTLINE

The National 5 Practical Cookery Course contains a significant practical element. It aims to further develop learners' life skills as well as a range of cookery skills and processes and food preparation techniques. Planning and producing meals and presenting them appropriately, learners develop understanding of ingredients from a variety of different sources, as well as of their uses and responsible sourcing and sustainability. Learners develop understanding of the impact of the choice of ingredients on health and wellbeing and embed food safety and hygiene skills. It also develops organisational skills which have an application in a wide variety of contexts.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have:

- Achieved level 3 in S2
- Demonstrated an interest in cookery

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 Practical Cookery

- Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes
- Understanding and Using Ingredients
- Organisational Skills for Cooking

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Practical activity where learners will prepare, cook and present a three course meal in 2 hours and 30 minutes—82 marks
- Assignment Written Exam—18 marks
- One hour question paper—30 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Hospitality Skills for Work at Level 5
- National 5 Practical Cake Craft
- Further study at college
- Seek employment in an Apprenticeship in this field.

COURSE OUTLINE

Physical Education gives candidates the opportunity to develop and demonstrate movement and performance skills in physical activities. By engaging in physical activities, learners can demonstrate initiative, decision-making and problem-solving. This course also encourages learners to develop a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle, and the contribution that physical activity makes to this.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have:

- Achieved level 2 in S2
- Demonstrated the potential to have National 4 PE practical performance level
- Demonstrated a commitment to PE in S1 and S2
- An enthusiasm for sport

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

Pupils must complete the following mandatory units to gain the full award.

- Factors Impacting Performance
- Performance Skills
- Added Value Unit: Performance

COURSE ASSESSMENT

All units are internally assessed on a pass or fail basis. All units must be passed to gain the full award.

- Factors Impacting Performance - written unit.
- Performance Skills - show National 4 performance level in two activities over a period of time.
- Added Value Unit: Performance. Complete a 'one off' performance at National 4 level.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- National 5 Physical Education
- Sports Development
- A college course in a sport-related field

COURSE OUTLINE

Physical Education gives candidates the opportunity to develop and demonstrate movement and performance skills in physical activities. By engaging in physical activities, learners can demonstrate initiative, decision-making and problem-solving. This course also encourages learners to develop a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle, and the contribution that physical activity makes to this.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have:

- Achieved level 3 in S2
- Demonstrated the potential to have National 5 PE practical performance level
- Demonstrated a commitment to PE in S1 and S2
- An enthusiasm for sport

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

- Component 1: Portfolio
- Component 2: Performance

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Final grading will be on assessment on Performance in two activities and a written Portfolio. Candidates will select activities for performance assessment based on SQA guidelines, school facilities and staff expertise. The Portfolio is completed as an ongoing assessment throughout the year in class time. There is no written exam.

Performance – 50%

Portfolio – 50%

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Physical Education
- Sports Development
- A college course in a sport-related field

COURSE OUTLINE

The course uses fashion and textile contexts for developing related technological skills, knowledge, understanding and attributes through fashion and textile-related activities.

The practical learning activities in the course encourage candidates to develop problem-solving techniques, make informed choices and take responsibility for the development of an idea through to the completed item. The course will use underpinning knowledge and focuses on designing, planning, making and evaluating detailed fashion/textile items.

The course allows candidates to continue to acquire the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as enthusiasm and a willingness to learn; perseverance, resilience and independence; responsibility and reliability; and confidence and enterprise.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have:

- Achieved level 3 in Home Economics in S2
- Have an interest in fashion, design and associated industries

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 Fashion and Textiles Technology:

- understanding of textile characteristics, properties and technologies
- applying a detailed range of textile construction techniques
- explaining factors that affect fashion/textile choices
- explaining fashion/textile trends
- planning and making detailed fashion/textile items to an appropriate standard of quality
- demonstrating appropriate selection, set up, adjusting and use of tools and equipment, safely and correctly
- detailed investigation and presentation skills

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Question paper 30 marks
- Assignment 40 marks
- Practical activity 45 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- A Degree in fashion and textiles or similar
- An HND at college in the is sector
- Seek employment or an apprenticeships in this sector



FACULTY OF
SCIENCE

COURSE OUTLINE

N4 and N5 Biology courses aim to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of Biology including applications of Biology and the impact these make in society and the environment. This will enable learners to make their own decisions on issues within a modern society where the body of biological knowledge and its applications and implications are ever developing. Learners must be able to use and understand biological literacy, in everyday contexts, to communicate ideas and issues and to make biologically informed choices.

The courses are also designed to encourage the development of a range of scientific inquiry and investigative skills, scientific analytical thinking, planning and problem solving all in a biological context.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have :

- Achieved Level 3 Science in S2
- Demonstrated an enthusiasm for Science

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 4 & 5 Biology:

Unit 1: Cell Biology

The key areas covered are: cell structure; transport across cell membranes; producing new cells; DNA and the production of proteins; proteins and enzymes; genetic engineering and respiration.

Unit 2: Multicellular Organisms

The key areas covered are: cells, tissues and organs; cell division & stem cells; control and communication; reproduction, variation & inheritance; the need for transport and exchange systems in animals and plants.

Unit 3: Life on Earth

The key areas covered are: biodiversity and the distribution of life; energy in ecosystems; photosynthesis, sampling techniques, measurement of abiotic and biotic factors; adaptation, natural selection and the evolution of species and human impact on the environment.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

National 4:

Each unit will be assessed.

Added value unit will be assessed.

Assessments will take place internally and then be verified by the SQA.

Assessments will be pass or fail.

N4 Biology does not have an external exam.

However, learners must pass all assessments to gain a course award.

National 5:

Assignment : Pupils will complete an assignment worth 20% of final exam in school but it will be sent to the SQA for marking.

Examination: N5 Biology has an external exam set and marked by SQA.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Biology
- A vocational course related to Science
- Health Sector Science

COURSE OUTLINE

The aims of the N4 and N5 courses are to develop learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for chemistry in a range of contexts. The relevance of chemistry is highlighted by the study of the applications of chemistry in everyday contexts. This will enable learners to become scientifically literate citizens who are able to review the science-based claims they will meet.

Learning and teaching within a class will be organised to allow a range of learners' needs to be met. A wide variety of resources and approaches to learning will be used to support each child's learning. These will include practical activities and investigations, use of ICT, and group working.

The courses give opportunities for learners to develop the ability to think analytically, creatively and independently, and to make reasoned evaluations. The key skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are integrated and developed throughout the course.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have :

- Achieved Level 3 Science in S2
- Demonstrated an enthusiasm for Science

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

Unit 1: Chemical Changes and Structure

In this Unit, learners will develop scientific skills and knowledge of the chemical reactions in our world. Through practical experience, learners will investigate the rates of reaction and the chemistry of neutralisation reactions. The connection between atoms, bonding and chemical properties of materials is investigated, and pupils will learn how to write chemical formulae and perform mole calculations.

Unit 2: Nature's Chemistry

The Earth has a rich supply of natural resources which are used by all of us. In this Unit, learners will investigate the physical and chemical properties of many carbon based compounds. They will explore their chemical reactions and their

uses in everyday consumer products. Learners will investigate the energy produced on burning different fuels.

Unit 3: Chemistry in Society

In this Unit, learners will develop skills and carry out practical investigations related to the chemistry of materials. Learners will focus on the chemistry of metals and their bonding, reactions and uses. The connection between bonding in plastics, their physical properties and their uses is investigated. Learners will investigate the chemical reactions and processes used to manufacture many industrially important chemicals.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

National 4:

Each unit will be assessed.

Added value unit will be assessed.

Assessments will take place internally and then be verified by the SQA.

Assessments will be pass or fail.

N4 Chemistry does not have an external exam. However, learners must pass all assessments to gain a course award.

National 5:

Assignment : Pupils will complete an assignment worth 20% of final exam in school but it will be sent to the SQA for marking. - 100 marks

Examination: N5 Chemistry has an external exam set and marked by SQA. - 20 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Biology
- A vocational course related to Science
- Health Sector Science

COURSE OUTLINE

N4 and N5 Physics provide a wonderful opportunity to develop each learner's interest and enthusiasm for physics. Through learning in physics, learners develop their interest in and understanding of the world. They will engage in a wide range of investigative tasks, which allows them to develop important skills to become creative, inventive and enterprising, in a world where the skills developed by physics are needed across all sectors of society.

Successful learners in physics think creatively to analyse and solve problems. Physics can produce responsible citizens, through studying the impact it makes on their lives, on the environment, and on society.

The courses are also designed to encourage the development of a range of scientific inquiry and investigative skills, scientific analytical thinking, planning and problem solving all in a physics context.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have :

- Achieved Level 3 Science in S2
- Demonstrated an enthusiasm for Science

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

Unit 1: Electricity and Energy

In this Unit, learners develop skills of scientific inquiry, investigation and analytical thinking, along with knowledge and understanding of electricity and energy. The Unit covers key areas such as energy conservation, generation of electricity, electrical power, electromagnetism, practical electrical and electronic circuits, gas laws and the kinetic model. Learners will research issues, apply scientific skills and communicate information related to their findings, which will develop skills of scientific literacy.

Unit 2: Waves and Radiation

In this Unit, learners develop skills of scientific inquiry, investigation and analytical thinking, along with knowledge and understanding of waves and radiation. The Unit covers key areas such as wave characteristics, sound, electromagnetic spectrum

and nuclear radiation. Learners will research issues, apply scientific skills and communicate information related to their findings, which will develop skills of scientific literacy.

Unit 3: Dynamics and Space

In this Unit, learners develop skills of scientific inquiry, investigation and analytical thinking, along with knowledge and understanding of dynamics and space. The Unit covers key areas such as speed and acceleration, relationships between forces, motion and energy, satellites and cosmology. Learners will research issues, apply scientific skills and communicate information related to their findings, which will develop skills of scientific literacy.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

National 4:

Each unit will be assessed.

Added value unit will be assessed.

Assessments will take place internally and then be verified by the SQA.

Assessments will be pass or fail.

N4 Physics does not have an external exam. However, learners must pass all assessments to gain a course award.

National 5:

Assignment : Pupils will complete an assignment worth 20% of final exam in school but it will be sent to the SQA for marking.— 20 marks

Examination: N5 Physics has an external exam set and marked by SQA.—135 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Physics
- A vocational course related to Science
- Health Sector Science



COMPUTING & BUSINESS EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE

Administration and IT cuts across all sectors of the economy and offers wide-ranging employment opportunities.

The National 5 Administration and IT course provides candidates with experience of real-life administration tasks and engaging practical activities highly relevant to the world of work. There is an emphasis on the development of valuable meta skills and the application of these skills.

Candidates following the course become aware of the use of technology within the workplace, as they complete organisational tasks.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have:

Achieved level 3 in S2 in this curricular area.

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 Administration and IT:

- skills in using spreadsheets, databases, word-processing, desktop publishing and presentations
- skills in using technology for electronic communication and investigation
- skills in organising and supporting events
- problem-solving skills in administrative contexts
- theory of the tasks (duties) and knowledge associated with the administrative support function in an organisation

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Component 1: question paper 50
- Component 2: assignment 70

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Administration & IT
- A vocational course in this field
- Seek employment

COURSE OUTLINE

The course introduces learners to the dynamic, changing, competitive and economic environment of industry and commerce. It develops skills in communicating and presenting business-related information, in a variety of formats, to the various stakeholders of an organisation.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have:

Achieved level 3 in S2 in this curricular area.

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

Areas of Study

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

COURSE ASSESSMENT

All units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the Unit Specification. This process will be verified by SQA.

An external assessment will take place. Learners will be assessed through a combination of a Business Management question paper and a business-related assignment.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

Component 1 — Question Paper 90 marks

Component 2 — Assignment 30 marks

Total 120 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Business Management
- A vocational course in this field

COURSE OUTLINE

Computing Science is vital to everyday life — socially, technologically and economically; it shapes the world in which we live and its future. Computing is embedded in the world around us, from systems and devices in our homes and places of work, to how we access education, entertainment, transportation and communication. Understanding computational processes and thinking is also vital to many other fields including science, economics, business and industry.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

Pupils should have

- Achieved level 3 in S2
- Demonstrated an enthusiasm for computing

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

Areas of Study

- Software Design and Development
- Website Design and Development
- Database Design and Development

COURSE ASSESSMENT

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

Component 1 — Question Paper 80 marks

Component 2 — Coursework 40 marks

Total 120 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Computing Science
- A vocational course in this field



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE

The Course provides a broad practical introduction to design, materials and manufacturing processes. It provides opportunities for learners to gain skills in both designing and in communicating design proposals. It allows learners to explore the properties and uses of materials and to make models and prototypes of products.

It is suitable for learners with an interest in product design and manufacture in particular. It is suitable for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study in the subject.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

Demonstrated Level 3 or above in S2

Or

Passed National 4 Design & Manufacture

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5:

- Design Unit

This Unit covers the product design process from brief to resolved design proposals, including a specification. You will develop skills in initiating, developing, articulating and communicating simple design proposals. You will also develop an appreciation of the design/make/test process and the importance of evaluating and resolving work on an ongoing basis. The unit will help you to develop an appreciation of design concepts and the various factors that influence the design of products.

- Materials and Manufacturing

This Unit covers the product design process from design proposals to prototype or product. You will manufacture your own design ideas and develop practical skills that are invaluable in the design/make/test process. You will gain an appreciation of the properties and uses of materials, as well as simple manufacturing processes and techniques.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Component 1 – A design folio, with a topic set by the SQA (55 marks)
- Component 2 – A practical model, manufactured in school (45 marks)
- Component 3 – 1hr 45min exam paper (80 marks)

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Study Higher Design and Manufacture
- A further education course in the Design or Engineering fields

Some possible careers for pupils who have a particular interest in Design and Manufacture would be:

- Architecture
- Industrial Design
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Engineering
- Furniture Design
- Product Design
- Jewellery Design
- Model Making etc.

COURSE OUTLINE

Learners will develop skills in 2D and 3D graphics, as well as pictorial graphics. They will be able to apply these skills in order to produce graphics that require relevant visual impact and graphics that transmit information.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

Demonstrated Level 3 or above in S2

Or

Passed National 4 Graphic Communication

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

- 2D Graphic Communication

This unit helps learners develop their creativity and skills within a 2D graphic communication context. It will allow learners to initiate, develop and communicate ideas using graphic techniques in straightforward and familiar contexts. In addition, the unit allows learners to develop their skills in some less familiar or new contexts. Learners will develop 2D graphic spatial awareness.

- 3D and Pictorial Graphic Communication

This unit helps learners develop their creativity and skills within a 3D and pictorial graphic communication context. Again, it will allow learners to initiate, develop and communicate ideas using graphic techniques in straightforward and familiar contexts. In addition, the unit allows learners to develop their skills in some less familiar or new contexts. Learners will develop 3D graphic spatial awareness.

In both units, learners will develop an understanding of how graphic communication technologies impact on our environment and society.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Component 1
2 Hour SQA exam paper (80 marks)
- Component 2
Timed 8 Hour Assignment (40 marks)

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Study Higher Graphic Communication
- This qualification is also of use for pupils wanting to go on to study Design, Architecture or Engineering courses at College or University

Some possible careers for pupils who have a particular interest in Graphic Communication would be:

- Architecture
- Advertising
- Animation
- Engineering
- Graphic Design
- Interior Design
- Textile Design
- Multimedia Design etc.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is largely workshop-based, providing a broad introduction to practical woodworking. The course allows learners to develop practical psychomotor skills (manual dexterity and control) in a specialist practical craft. It helps learners to develop safe working practices and to become proactive in matters of health and safety. It allows them to learn how to use a range of tools, equipment and materials correctly and provides skills that are complementary to other curriculum areas.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You should have:

- Achieved level 3 in S2
- Demonstrated suitable hand skills through relevant Design & Technology courses or similar

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 Practical Woodworking SCQF Level 5:

- Flat Frame Construction
- Carcase Construction
- Machining and finishing

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Question Paper – 60 marks (scaled mark 30%)
1 hour
- Practical Activity – 70 marks (scaled mark 70%)
Completed in class time

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- A college course in this field
- An apprenticeship or employment in this field or related fields such as: Joiner, Construction worker/manager, Roofer, Shopfitter, Furniture Maker, Painter and Decorator

Transferable Skills developed in this course could also support success in the following areas: Building and Civil Engineering

- Structural Engineer
- Surveyor
- Clerk of Works
- Architectural Technician
- Glazier
- Civil Engineering Technician
- Construction Plant Mechanic
- Plasterer etc.



HUMANITIES

COURSE OUTLINE

This Course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship. Through the study of Geography and the acquisition of techniques of geographical analysis, learners develop an understanding of aspects of the contemporary world of concern to all citizens. Their confidence grows as they begin to understand more about their sense of identity and learn about different countries and cultures.

Learners will build up a framework of geographical knowledge and understanding with which to understand and respond to global issues which can help them develop a sense of responsible citizenship. Through the skills and content of this Course, learners will develop an increased understanding of the environment, sustainability and the impact of global issues.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

- Have an interest in Geography

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 4 Geography :

- Geography: Physical Environments
- Geography: Human Environments
- Geography: Global Issues
- Added Value Unit

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- All 3 units must be passed
- Added Value Unit

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Study National 5 Geography
- Study another Social Subject

COURSE OUTLINE

This Course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship. Through the study of Geography and the acquisition of techniques of geographical analysis, learners develop an understanding of aspects of the contemporary world of concern to all citizens. Their confidence grows as they begin to understand more about their sense of identity and learn about different countries and cultures.

Learners will build up a framework of geographical knowledge and understanding with which to understand and respond to global issues which can help them develop a sense of responsible citizenship. Through the skills and content of this Course, learners will develop an increased understanding of the environment, sustainability and the impact of global issues.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

- Achieved a level 3 in Social Subjects in S2
- Have an interest in Geography

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

Geography National 5:

Unit 1: Geography: Physical Environments

- Weather
- Glaciation & Human Interaction
- Coasts

Unit 2: Geography: Human Environments

- Population
- Urban
- Rural

Unit 3: Geography: Global Issues

- Climate Change
- Development & Health

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Assignment (20%)

The assignment component of the Course assessment will have a greater emphasis on the assessment of skills than the question paper. The other marks will be awarded for the demonstration of knowledge and understanding. This is written in class, under exam conditions, in 1 hour.

External Exam (80%)

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. This exam is out of 80 and candidates are given 2hours 20mins to complete,

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Study Higher Geography
- Study another Social Subject

COURSE OUTLINE

The purpose of History is for learners to develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. This Course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas, and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship.

This Course contributes to learners' understanding of the society in which they live and work by helping them to develop a map of the past and an appreciation and understanding of the forces which have shaped the world today.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

- Achieved level 2 in S2 in Social Subjects

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 4 History SCQF level 5:

- Unit 1: Historical Study: Scottish
- Unit 2: Historical Study: British
- Unit 3: Historical Study: European and World

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- All 3 units must be passed
- Added Value Unit

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Study National 5 History
- Study another Social Subject

COURSE OUTLINE

The purpose of History is for learners to develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. This Course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas, and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship.

This Course contributes to learners' understanding of the society in which they live and work by helping them to develop a map of the past and an appreciation and understanding of the forces which have shaped the world today.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

- Achieved level 3 in S2 in Social Subjects

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 History SCQF level 5:

- Unit 1: Historical Study: Scottish
- Unit 2: Historical Study: British
- Unit 3: Historical Study: European and World

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Assignment—20 marks
- External Examination Paper—80 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Study Higher History
- Study another Social Subject
- A vocational course in this field

COURSE OUTLINE

The purpose of Modern Studies is to develop the learner's knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and social issues in local, Scottish, United Kingdom and international contexts. In these contexts, learners will develop an awareness of the social and political issues they will meet in their lives. This purpose will be achieved through successful study of the three Units of the Course. Through this Course, learners will undertake a coherent study of contemporary society with concepts and themes being revisited and built upon across Units. The Course will develop the skills to help learners interpret and participate in the social and political processes they will encounter now and in the future.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

- Achieved a level 3 in Social Subjects in S2
- Have an interest in social and political issues

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 5 Modern Studies:

Unit 1: Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom

Unit 2: Social Issues in the United Kingdom

Course unit: Crime and the Law

Unit 3: International Issues

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Assignment— 20 marks

Final Exam – 80 marks

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Study Higher Modern Studies
- Further study of a social subject at Higher level

COURSE OUTLINE

The purpose of Modern Studies is to develop the learner's knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and social issues in local, Scottish, United Kingdom and international contexts. In these contexts, learners will develop an awareness of the social and political issues they will meet in their lives. This purpose will be achieved through successful study of the three Units of the Course. Through this Course, learners will undertake a coherent study of contemporary society with concepts and themes being revisited and built upon across Units. The Course will develop the skills to help learners interpret and participate in the social and political processes they will encounter now and in the future.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You must have:

- Achieved a level 2 in Social Subjects in S2
- Have an interest in social and political issues

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 4 Modern Studies:

Unit 1: Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom

Unit 2: Social Issues in the United Kingdom

Course unit: Crime and the Law

Unit 3: International Issues

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Added Value Unit

All three units must be passed

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Study National 5 Modern Studies
- Further study of a social subject at National 5 level



MODERN LANGUAGES

COURSE OUTLINE

The main aim of the National 4 and National 5 course in French is to develop proficiency in the skills of talking, listening, reading and writing in French. Learning is based on four themes: Society, Learning, Employability and Culture. The study of these themes allows pupils to build on their existing knowledge of the language, develop the ability to understand detailed written and spoken language, and communicate successfully with others on a wide range of topics related to everyday life.

Pupils also have the opportunity to explore aspects of the cultures of countries where French is spoken. A wide variety of textual, audio-visual and ICT resources are used to provide an enjoyable, relevant course which encourages learners to understand the value of their foreign language skills for learning, life and work.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You should have:

- Achieved Level 3 in Modern Languages in S2
- An interest in French language and culture

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 4 & 5 French:

Understanding language

Students will learn to understand written and spoken French containing detailed language and a broad range of vocabulary and grammatical features. Learners will show their understanding by answering questions, comparing features of texts, and discussing the content of items they have listened to or read.

Using language

Students will develop their skills in talking and writing in French. They will take part in conversations, write short passages, make brief oral presentations, and prepare documents in various formats such as emails and brochures. They will learn to use detailed language and will significantly expand their range of vocabulary as

well as their grammatical understanding of the French language.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

National 4:

Reading comprehension assessment
Listening comprehension assessment, using a variety of media

Talking e.g. presentation, conversation

Writing e.g. about personal views etc.

Added value unit

Learners will plan and research a topic based on contexts studied in class. They will answer written questions about the topic and have a short conversation about it in French.

Both units of work (Understanding Language and Using Language) and the Added Value must be completed to gain a National 4 pass

National 5 :

Assignment - Writing

Students will complete a written assignment of 120 -200 words in French, using detailed language, based on one of the following themes: society, learning or culture.

External Exam

Performance: Talking –a spoken presentation and conversation in French

Two formal examination papers:

1. Reading Comprehension and Writing
2. Listening.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher French
- Another Modern Language at a suitable level
- Modern Languages for Life and Work Award at the same or a higher level

COURSE OUTLINE

The main aim of the National 4 and National 5 course in Spanish is to develop proficiency in the skills of talking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish. Learning is based on four themes: Society, Learning, Employability and Culture. The study of these themes allows pupils to build on their existing knowledge of the language, develop the ability to understand detailed written and spoken language, and communicate successfully with others on a wide range of topics related to everyday life.

Pupils also have the opportunity to explore aspects of the cultures of countries where Spanish is spoken. A wide variety of textual, audio-visual and ICT resources are used to provide an enjoyable, relevant course which encourages learners to understand the value of their foreign language skills for learning, life and work.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You should have:

- Achieved Level 3 in Modern Languages in S2
- An interest in Spanish language and culture

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 4 & 5 Spanish:

Understanding language

Students will learn to understand written and spoken Spanish containing detailed language and a broad range of vocabulary and grammatical features. Learners will show their understanding by answering questions, comparing features of texts, and discussing the content of items they have listened to or read.

Using language

Students will develop their skills in talking and writing in Spanish. They will take part in conversations, write short passages, make brief oral presentations, and prepare documents in various formats such as emails and brochures. They will learn to use detailed language and will significantly expand their range of vocabulary as

well as their grammatical understanding of the Spanish language.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

National 4:

Reading comprehension assessment
Listening comprehension assessment, using a variety of media

Talking e.g. presentation, conversation

Writing e.g. about personal views etc.

Added value unit

Learners will plan and research a topic based on contexts studied in class. They will answer written questions about the topic and have a short conversation about it in Spanish.

Both units of work (Understanding Language and Using Language) and the Added Value must be completed to gain a National 4 pass

National 5 :

Assignment - Writing

Students will complete a written assignment of 120 -200 words in Spanish, using detailed language, based on one of the following themes: society, learning or culture.

External Exam

Performance: Talking –a spoken presentation and conversation in Spanish.

Two formal examination papers:

1. Reading Comprehension and Writing
2. Listening.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher Spanish
- Another Modern Language at a suitable level
- Modern Languages for Life and Work Award at the same or a higher level

COURSE OUTLINE

The main aim of the National 4 and National 5 course in German is to develop proficiency in the skills of talking, listening, reading and writing in German. Learning is based on four themes: Society, Learning, Employability and Culture. The study of these themes allows pupils to build on their existing knowledge of the language, develop the ability to understand detailed written and spoken language, and communicate successfully with others on a wide range of topics related to everyday life.

Pupils also have the opportunity to explore aspects of the cultures of countries where German is spoken. A wide variety of textual, audio-visual and ICT resources are used to provide an enjoyable, relevant course which encourages learners to understand the value of their foreign language skills for learning, life and work.

PUPIL ELIGIBILITY

You should have:

- Achieved Level 3 in Modern Languages in S2
- An interest in German language and culture

QUALIFICATION BREAKDOWN

National 4 & 5 German:

Understanding language

Students will learn to understand written and spoken German containing detailed language and a broad range of vocabulary and grammatical features. Learners will show their understanding by answering questions, comparing features of texts, and discussing the content of items they have listened to or read.

Using language

Students will develop their skills in talking and writing in German. They will take part in conversations, write short passages, make brief oral presentations, and prepare documents in various formats such as emails and brochures. They will learn to use detailed language and will significantly expand their range of vocabulary as

well as their grammatical understanding of the German language.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

National 4:

Reading comprehension assessment
Listening comprehension assessment, using a variety of media

Talking e.g. presentation, conversation

Writing e.g. about personal views etc.

Added value unit

Learners will plan and research a topic based on contexts studied in class. They will answer written questions about the topic and have a short conversation about it in German.

Both units of work (Understanding Language and Using Language) and the Added Value must be completed to gain a National 4 pass

National 5 :

Assignment - Writing

Students will complete a written assignment of 120 -200 words in German, using detailed language, based on one of the following themes: society, learning or culture.

External Exam

Performance: Talking – a spoken presentation and conversation in German.

Two formal examination papers:

1. Reading Comprehension and Writing
2. Listening.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I FINISH?

You might go on to do:

- Higher German
- Another Modern Language at a suitable level
- Modern Languages for Life and Work Award at the same or a higher level