



# Knox Academy

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Friday 26 March 2021

## **Knox Academy Alternative Certification Model**

### **Senior Phase Assessment Window – May 2021**

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

On 7 October 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Deputy First Minister announced the decision to use an Alternative Certification Model (ACM) to determine results for National 5 qualifications in 2021. On 8 December 2020 the ACM was extended to include Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications. The National Qualifications 2021 Group published the [revised alternative certification model](#) (ACM) for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher on 16 February 2021.

Following a return to a period of remote learning on 7 January 2021, pupils studying practical subjects were allowed to return to school from 15 February 2021 and a phased return of all pupils (prioritising Senior Phase) began on 15 March 2021. The First Minister announced, on 16 March 2021, the return of all pupils to full-time face-to-face education from Tuesday 20 April 2021.

As a result of this, we have devised an assessment timeline for our young people in the senior phase at Knox Academy. This will support us in gathering the required assessment evidence needed to make professional judgements for provisional grades to be shared with the SQA by 25 June.

The assessment window for Knox Academy, like all East Lothian Secondary Schools, will mainly sit within the month of May, allowing a short period of re connection following the Easter break. The timetable is outlined in detail below. Pupils will mainly be completing the assessments within their normal class time, avoiding disruption to the normal school timetable, and allowing pupils maximum opportunity for direct class teaching and support. Pupils will not have “leave” during this assessment period as most assessments will take place during class time and we are keen to capitalise on all the opportunities possible for face to face teaching and feedback to pupils between assessments.

A number of assessments appear a few times in the calendar, as subjects can be delivered in a number of columns, and therefore at different times in the timetable. There will be a maximum of two assessments in any one day. However the majority of pupils will only ever have one assessment per day. There will be a few days where there will be no assessments.

Using the column approach, allows a fair and even spread for as many of our young people as possible. The final week will be a period for extended assessments, mainly in practical subjects E.g. practical cookery. These assessments will involve some disruption to the normal timetable, however this will be minimal.



## **Alternative Assessment Arrangements**

Those young people who receive alternative assessment arrangements (AAA) will receive these as part of this assessments diet. Extra time and ICT support will be take place within the classroom setting. For those who receive additional support such as readers, scribes and prompts, this will be agreed and co-ordinated through the Support for Learning Department, classroom teachers and young people and may involve slight changes to individual assessment times. We will ensure pupils know exactly what their individual arrangements are for these.

## **SQA Expectations**

Following the expectations of the alternative certification model from the SQA our key principle of small, broken up assessments taking place over time in class remains at the heart of our approach, supporting our young people to demonstrate their best work.

- N5 have time in the assessment window for 3-4 pieces of assessed work in each subject area, given that this level did not benefit from a Prelim style examination in December 2020.
- For Higher/AH we have allowed time in the assessment window for 2-3 pieces of assessed work in each subject area, given that this level benefited from a Prelim style examination in December 2020.
- Final provisional grades will only be determined through demonstrated attainment. Inferred attainment will not be used.
- When determining two to four pieces of evidence, this does not mean two to four full 'practice' or 'prelim exams' which would normally mirror a traditional final paper.
- Where possible, assessment pieces have been spaced out to allow young people to receive feedback to further support their learning for subsequent pieces of evidence.

## **Verification and Moderation link**

As a school and local authority, we have developed clear systems and approaches to the production, quality assurance and submission of provisional results for the academic session 2020/21. This can be viewed in detail on our school website and can be accessed using this link [School Verification Policy](#)

## **Security**

Assessment will take place in controlled conditions and phones will need to be switched off and stored securely in a school bag under the desk. Class teachers will invigilate these assessments. Ensuring fairness of assessment, which includes preventing and addressing malpractice in the design and delivery of our assessments, is fundamental to our purpose, and is the cornerstone of the qualifications system on which learners depend. Assessments must be treated and used securely by our young people. This will be as much of an expectation this year within the school and nationally, as any other.

## **Information for Young People**

Teachers will provide clarity to young people on:

- what pieces of evidence will inform their provisional grade for each subject
- the weighting of each piece of evidence

- updates on their progress in assessments
- feedback between assessments (where this will support any following assessments)

### What do the Columns mean in my normal timetable?

#### **S4**

Column	When does this normally occur on my timetable?
Column A	English Only
Column B	Maths only
Column C	The subject you normally have Mon 1, Wed 7, Thurs 3, Fri 3
Column D	The subject you normally have Tues 4, Wed 4+5, Thurs 1
Column E	The subject you normally have Tues 6+7, Thurs 6+ 7
Column F	The subject you normally have Mon 4, Tues 2, Wed 6, Fri1
Column G	The subject you normally have Mon 6, Tues 1, Wed 1, Thurs 4

#### **S5/6**

Column	When does this normally occur in my timetable?
Column C	The subject you normally have Mon 1+2, Tues 5, Wed 7, Thurs 3, Fri 3
Column D	The subject you normally have Mon 3, Tues 4, Wed 4+5, Thurs 1+2
Column E	The subject you normally have Mon 7, Tues 6+7, Thurs 6+7, Fri 4
Column F	The subject you normally have Mon 4+5, Tues 2+3, Wed 6, Fri 1
Column G	The subject you normally have Mon 6, Tues 1, Wed 1+2, Thurs 4, Fri 2

### Daily Details of Assessments

#### **Week 1 (27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> April)**

Date	Column	Subject	Level	Period	Assessment
Tues 27th April	D/E/F	French	N5	Individual Times	Speaking
Tues 28th April	D/E/F	French	N5	Individual Times	Speaking

#### **Week 2 (4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May)**

Date	Column	Subject	Level	Period	Assessment
Tues 4th May	Column E	PE	N5	6 & 7	Section 1
		Computing	N5	6 & 7	Section 1
		Physics	AH	6 & 7	Section 1
		Physics	N5	6 & 7	Section 1
		Psych	N5		7 Paper 1
		French	AH	6 & 7	Reading & Translation
		Modern Studies	H	6 and 7	Assessment 1
		Art	N5	6 & 7	QP Full
		Chemistry	H	6 & 7	Section 1
Wed 5th May	Column A	English	N3/4/5	2 & 3	Paper 2 (CE)
	Column D	RMPS	N5	4 & 5	Section 1&2

		PE	N5	4 & 5	Section 1
		Computing	Higher	4 & 5	Section 1
		English	N5/H/AH	4 & 5	Paper 2 (CE)
		French	H	4 & 5	Reading & Writing
		Bus Mgt	AH	4 and 5	Essays
		Modern Studies	N5	4	Assessment 1
		Modern Studies	H	4 and 5	Assessment 1
		Geography	N5	4 and 5	Human
		Graphics	N5	4 & 5	SQA Paper Part 1
		Design & Manufacture	H	4 & 5	SQA Paper Part 1
		Biology	N5	4	Multiple Choice
		Chemistry	N5	4	Section 1
		Chemistry	AH	4	Multiple Choice
		Graphics	H	4 & 5	SQA Paper Part 1
<b>Thurs 6th May</b>	Column G	Maths	AH	Period 4	Paper 1 (non calculator)
		Computing	National 5	Period 4	Section 1
		English	H	4	Paper 2 (TA)
		Psych	N5	4	Paper 1
		Mandarin	N5	4	Reading
		Italian	AH	4	Listening
		Bus Mgt	N5	4	Assessment 1
		Bus Mgt	H	4	Assessment 1
		Geography	AH	4	Assessment 1
		History	H	4	Paper 1
		Design & Manufacture	N5	4	SQA Part 1
		Biology	N5	4	Multiple Choice
		Chemistry	N5	4	Section 1
		Chemistry	H	4	Section 1
<b>Fri 7th May</b>	Column F	Computing	AH	1	Section 1
		French	N5	1	Listening
		Modern Studies	N5	1	Assessment 1
		Human Biology	H	1	Multiple Choice
		Physics	N5	1	Section 1
		Biology	N5	1	Multiple Choice
		Biology	H	1	Section 1

### Week 3 (10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May)

Date	Column	Subject	Level	Period	Assessment
<b>Mon 10th May</b>	Column B	Maths	N5	Period 3	Paper 1 (non- calculator)
		Maths	N5	Period 7	Paper 1 (non- calculator)
	Column C	Prac Cook	N5	1 & 2	Question Paper

		Physics	H	1 & 2	Section 1
		English	H	1 & 2	Paper 2 (CE)
		Bus Mgt	N5	1	Assessment 1
		Economics	H	1 and 2	Assessment 1
		Modern Studies	N5	1	Assessment 1
		Geography	H	1 and 2	Human/Physical
		History	N5	1	Paper 1
		Photography	H	1 & 2	Question Paper
		Drama	N5	1	Question Paper
		Drama	H	1 & 2	Question Paper
		Admin and IT	N5	1	Spreadsheets
		Art	N5	1	QP Part 1
		Biology	H	1 and 2	Section 1
		Biology	AH	1 and 2	Section 1
		Chemistry	N5	1	Section 1
<b>Tues 11th May</b>	Column F	Maths	N5	Period 3	Paper 1 (non-calculator)
		Maths	Higher	Period 2 AND 3	Paper 1 (non-calculator)
		Prac Cook	N5	2 & 3*	Question Paper
		Computing	AH	2 & 3	Section 2
		Psych	Higher	2 & 3	Paper 1
		French	N5	2	Reading
		Modern Studies	N5	2	Assessment 2
		Modern Studies	AH	2 and 3	Assessment 1
		History	AH	2 and 3	Assessment 1
		Human Biology	H	2 and 3	Written Paper 1
		Physics	N5	2	Section 2
		Music	N5	2	Question Paper
		Practical			
		Woodwork	N5	2	QP Part 1
		RMPS	AH	2 & 3*	Essay 1
		Biology	N5	2	Written Part 1
		Biology	H	2 and 3	Section 2
<b>Wed 12th May</b>	Column A	English	N5	2 and 3	Paper 1 RUAE
	Column G	Maths	AH	Period 1 AND 2	Paper 2 (calculator)
		Computing	National 5	Period 1	Section 2
		Psych	Higher	1 & 2	Paper 1
		Psych	N5	2	Paper 2
		English	H	1 & 2	Paper 1 (RUAE)
		Mandarin	N5	1	Writing
					Reading &
		Italian	AH	1 & 2	Translation
		Bus Mgt	N5	1	Assessment 2
		Bus Mgt	H	1 and 2	Assessment 2
		Geography	AH	1 and 2	Assessment 2
		History	H	1 and 2	Paper 2

<b>Thurs 13th May</b>	Column D	Design & Manufacture	N5	1	QP Part 2
		Art & Design Practical	H	1 & 2	Question Paper
		Woodwork	N5	1	QP Part 1
		Admin and IT	H	1 and 2	Assignment
		Biology	N5	1	Written Part 1
		Chemistry	N5	1	Section 2
		Chemistry	H	1 and 2	Section 2
		All			
		English	(N5/H/AH)	1 & 2	Paper 1 (RUAE)
		Computing	Higher	1 & 2	Section 2
	Column E	French	H	1 & 2	Talking
		Bus Mgt	AH	1 and 2	Case Study
		Modern Studies	N5	1	Assessment 2
		Modern Studies	H	1 and 2	Assessment 2
		Geography	N5	1	Global Issues
		Graphics	N5	1	QP Part 2
		Biology	N5	1	Written Part 1
		Chemistry	N5	1	Section 2
		Chemistry	AH	1 and 2	Written Part 1
		Graphics	H	1 & 2	SQA Paper Part 2
Column A	Maths	N5	Period 7	Paper 1 (non-calculator)	
	Maths	Higher	Period 6 AND 7	Paper 1 (non-calculator)	
	PE	Higher	6 & 7	Section 1	
	Prac Cook	N5	6 & 7	Question Paper	
	Computing	N5	6 & 7	Section 2	
	Physics	AH	6 & 7	Section 2	
	Physics	N5	6 & 7	Section 2	
	Psych	N5	7	Paper 2	
	French	AH	6 & 8	Listening & Writing	
	Modern Studies	H	6 and 7	Assessment 2	
Column C	Chemistry	H	6 and 7	Section 2	
	Music	N5	6 and 7	Question Paper Part 1	
	English	N3/4/5	2 & 4	Paper 2 (TA)	
	Physics	H	3	Section 2	
	English	H	3	Paper 2 (TA)	
	Business Mgt	N5	3	Assessment 2	
	Economics	H	3	Assessment 2	
	Modern Studies	N5	3	Assessment 2	
	Geography	H	3	Paper 2	
	History	N5	3	Paper 2	
<b>Fri 14th May</b>	Column C	Design & Manufacture	N5	3	QP Part 1

Drama	N5	3	QP Part 2
Drama	H	3	QP Part 2
Admin and IT	N5	3	Theory
Art	N5	3	QP Part 2
Biology	H	3	Section 2
Biology	AH	3	Section 2
Chemistry	N5	3	Section 2

**Week 4 (17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May)**

Date	Column	Subject	Level	Period	Assessment	
<b>Mon17th May</b>	Column C	Physics	H	1 & 2	Section 3	
		English	H	1 & 2	Paper 1 (RUAE)	
		Business Mgt	N5	1	Assessment 3	
		Economics	H	1 and 2	Assessment 3	
		Modern Studies	N5	1	Assessment 3	
		History	N5	1	Paper 3	
		Drama	N5	1	QP Part 2	
		Design & Manufacture	N5	1	QP Part 2	
		Drama	H	1 & 2	QP Part 2	
		Prac Cook	N5	1 & 2	Assignment Paper	
		Biology	H	1 and 2	Section 3	
		Biology	AH	1 and 2	Section 3	
		Chemistry	N5	1	Section 3	
	<b>Tues 18th May</b>	Column F	Maths	N5	Period 2 and 3	Paper 2 (calculator)
		Maths	H	Period 2 AND 3	Paper 2 (calculator)	
		Prac Cook	N5	2 & 3*	Assignment Paper	
		Computing	AH	2 & 3	Section 3	
		Psych	H	2 & 3	Paper 2	
		French	N5	2	Writing	
		Modern Studies	N5	2	Assessment 3	
		Modern Studies	AH	2 and 3	Assessment 2	
		History	AH	2 and 3	Assessment 2	
		Human Biology	H	2 and 3	Written Paper 2	
		Physics	N5	2	Section 3	
		Music	N5	2	Question Paper Part 2	
		Music	AH	2 & 3	Question Paper Part 2	
		Practical Woodwork	N5	2	QP Part 2	
		RMPS	AH	2 & 3*	Essay 2	
		Biology	N5	2	Written Part 2	
		Biology	H	2 and 3	Section 3	
		Column D	RMPS	N5	4	Section 3
			Computing	H	4	Section 3
			English	All (N5/H)	4	Paper 2 (TA)

		French	H	4	Listening
		Modern Studies	N5	4	Assessment 3
		Geography	N5	4	Physical
		Design & Manufacture	H	4	QP Part 2
		Biology	N5	4	Written Part 2
		Chemistry	N5	4	Section 3
		Chemistry	AH	4	Written Part 2
<b>Wed 19th May</b>	Column B	Maths	N5	2 AND 3	Paper 2 (calculator)
	Column G	Admin & IT	H	1 & 2	Question Paper
<b>Thurs 20th May</b>	Column E	Maths	N5	Period 6 AND 7	Paper 2 (calculator)
		Maths	H	Period 6 AND 7	Paper 2 (calculator)
		PE	H	6 & 7	Section 2&3
		Prac Cook	N5	6 & 7	Assignment Paper
		Computing	N5	6 & 7	Section 3
		Physics	AH	6 & 7	Section 3
		Physics	N5	6 & 7	Section 3
		French	AH	6 & 7	Talking
		Graphics	AH	6	QP Part 2
		Music	H	6 & 7	Question Part 1
					Question Paper Part 2
		Music	N5	6 & 7	2
		Chemistry	H	6 and 7	Section 3
	Column G	Computing	N5 (S4)	4	Section 3
		Mandarin	N5	4	Reading/Listening
		Business Mgt Practical	N5	4	Assessment 3
		Woodwork	N5	4	QP Part 2
		Biology	N5	4	Written Part 2
		Chemistry	N5	4	Section 3
<b>Fri 21st May</b>	Column G	Psych	H (S5/6)	p2 (into break)	Paper 2
		English	H	P2	Paper 2 (CE)
		Italian	AH	2	Writing
		Business Mgt	H	2	Assessment 3
		History	H	2	Paper 3
		Chemistry	H	2	Section 3

### Week 5 (25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May)

Date	Column	Subject	Level	Period	Assessment
<b>Wed 26th May</b>	Grp 1	Prac Cook	N5	am (8.30)	Cooking
	Grp 2	Prac Cook	N5	pm (12.30)	Cooking
	Column G	Mandarin	N5	P2-P3	Speaking



**Thurs 27th  
May**

Grp 3	Prac Cook	N5	pm (8.30)	Cooking	
Grp 4	Prac Cook	N5	pm (12.30)	Cooking	
Column C	Drama	N5/H	P1/2/3	Performance	
Column G	Mandarin	N5	P4	Speaking	
<b>Fri 28th May</b>	Grp 5	Prac Cook	N5	am (8.30)	Cooking

The upcoming assessments are different from normal. However, we are confident this model will work for our pupils. We are aware, however, that change can sometime cause anxiety and we want to make sure that no pupil feels alone through this. If any pupil feels overwhelmed by this assessment calendar, in any way, we would urge them to speak to their teachers, or Pupil Support Leader, who I am certain will help ease any pressures they are feeling.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do get in touch.

With many thanks for your continued support,

Caroline Falconer

Depute Head Teacher