

Supporting Your Learner

National 5 Physics

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Course Outline

In National 5 Physics pupils study three main areas;

- Electricity and Energy – Types of energy and energy transformation
- Waves and Radiations – Electromagnetic waves and nuclear radiation
- Dynamics and Space – Relationships involving forces in transport and the study of the universe

Pupils will also complete a research assignment which assesses scientific inquiry skills and related knowledge and understanding and accounts for 20% of their overall grade. Candidates will also undertake a final SQA exam which will be comprised of knowledge and source based questions on these three areas of study

The National 5 exam makes up the other 80% and is based primarily on knowledge and understanding, applying scientific inquiry, scientific analytical thinking and problem solving skills.



Exam Preparation

As the National 5 Physics exam approaches, pupils should carry out as much timed practise of exam questions as possible. As well as completing formal homework based on past paper type questions, pupils should be encouraged to source these types of questions from text books and also past paper booklets themselves and practise under timed conditions. The Physics exam is broken up into two sections. Part 1 contains 25 multiple choice questions and part 2 contains longer questions totalling 110 marks. Pupils will have the opportunity to carry out exam practise in class also.

Useful Websites

National 5 Physics candidates have many websites that will help them with their studies. We will be making an increasing use of [Google Classroom](#) where staff will be posting classroom and revision material as well as homework and further links. This is an ideal medium for pupils to ask their teacher a question out with their normal Physics periods too. The National 5 Physics Course has been designed to be topical and we will have the opportunity to research and discuss new developments. The [BBC](#) website is a great starting point for keeping up to date with what is happening in the world of Physics. There are also many good websites that will help with revision such as; [Mr Homer's](#), [Mr Mackenzie's](#), [BBC Bitesize](#) and [Bright Red Books](#) revision site which is linked to one of the useful books below.

Useful Textbooks

The following websites sell revision and course notes as well as past papers. We have a sample copy in the department of most Physics textbooks and can offer individual advice on what the best option for each pupil may be.

- [Hodder Education](#)
- [Leckie and Leckie](#)
- [Bright Red Publishing](#)



Revision Classes

Currently, revision classes are offered by Mr Moncrieff on a Monday from 3.50 to 4.50 pm and Mr Taylor on a Wednesday for 3.50 to 4.50 pm. Pupils are also always welcome to seek out any member of the Physics department for advice at lunch or at the start or end of the day.

SQA Past Papers

The link below will allow you to access the most recent past examination papers as well as specimen papers produced by the SQA. There are also Marking Schemes on this page.

[SQA National 5 Physics Past Papers](#)

Understanding Standards

The link below to the SQA website will allow you to see where markers have awarded marks to exemplar papers and read the markers' comments on the candidate's response. It is especially helpful in identifying where marks are awarded for analysis and for knowledge.

[Understanding Standards: National 5 Physics](#)

