

Supporting Your Learner

National 5

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Course Outline

In National 5 English all pupils study literature (prose, poetry and drama) as well as the study of a Scottish text. Pupils are encouraged to respond to literature through discussion, and extended essays. Non-fiction texts are studied to develop reading skills for understanding, analysis and evaluation.

The two units that will be assessed throughout National 5 English:

- Analysis and Evaluation (Reading and Listening)
- Creation and Production (Writing and Talking)

Pupils will also complete a Folio of writing (Creative/Reflective and Discursive) which will account for 30% of their overall grade. The maximum word count for each piece of writing is 1,000 words.

Candidates will also undertake a final SQA exam which includes:

- Paper 1: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation
- Paper 2: Critical Reading (Textual Analysis and Critical Essay)





Exam Preparation

As the National 5 English exam approaches, pupils should carry out as much timed practice of exam questions as possible. The SQA site has past papers available where pupils can access both Paper 1 and Paper 2.

Reading regularly is extremely important in building the understanding, analysis and evaluation skills necessary to complete Paper 1. We recommend reading quality newspapers and answering the homework questions available on the English page of the school website.

Revision of notes taken on all literature studied as well as completing timed essays will prepare pupils for Paper 2.

It is important that pupils revise their Scottish set text (six poems) and practice the Textual Analysis 8 mark question.

Useful Websites

In English pupils should be reading a mixture of fiction and non-fiction to help improve their vocabulary, understanding and summarising skills. Pupils should read newspaper articles in preparation for the Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation paper and can access articles from newspapers such as The [Guardian](#) and [The Independent](#). In preparation for the Folio pupils are expected to research a topic or issue in detail. The [Debating Matters](#) website has a huge range of topic guides to help pupils with their research. To help pupils with the study of William Shakespeare, the [No Fear Shakespeare](#) section of Spark Notes offers a modern-day translation of popular texts. As the final examination approaches pupils may benefit from [BBC Bitesize](#) where they can find information on their Scottish text as well as quizzes on other aspects of the National 5 English course.

Useful Textbooks

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

Revision Classes

National 5 revision classes are offered by Mr Bristow after school on Thursdays. There is also a drop-in on a Wednesday lunch time where pupils can speak to a member of the English department. Pupils are also always welcome to seek out either teacher for advice at lunch or at the start or end of the day

SQA Past Papers

The [SQA](#) website allows you to access the most recent past examination papers as well as specimen papers produced by the SQA. Marking schemes for the past papers are also available on this site.

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.

[Understanding Standards: National 5 English](#)

