



**St Columba's High School**  
Gourock

**S4**  
**OPTION**  
**BOOKLET**  
2015



## Introduction

It is now time to make your choice of courses for next year. This book is designed to help you with this choice – it gives information about the courses on offer in Fourth Year.

When you are making your choice please bear in mind the following-

- the subjects you are interested in
- the qualifications you need to go to College, University or to get a job
- any advice you are given by your subject teacher or Pastoral Care teacher

In choosing your subject you should remember the following

- it is better to continue with subjects you have done and are good at, rather than pick up new ones.
- to get the best qualifications you can you should continue with the subjects you expect to most successful with
- your subject choice should be discussed with your parents
- try to be sure of the subjects you will need for any career you are interested in, you can always ask for an appointment with our careers officer.
- your Pastoral Care Teacher will interview you and agree a course

It is important that you make good choices of courses now – it may be difficult to change later on and if you do change you may have missed work which could be difficult to catch up with.

It is important also that you listen to advice given to you about which level of course you should follow – if you are placed at the wrong level it may cause problems later on.

Where there is no information for a particular course you should speak to the Principal Teacher of the subject.

**S6 students** considering taking **Advanced Higher** courses must speak to Principal Teachers about what is involved in their subjects and probable arrangements for these.

Please note that the book is arranged in two sections –

- Section 1 – National 4 courses
- Section 2 – National 5 courses

At this stage all pupils should provisionally choose 6 courses. Details of the courses offered by West College Scotland will be available soon.

Good luck! Choose wisely!



# SECTION 1

# NATIONAL 4 COURSES



# Summary of Administration & IT National 4

# 3

UNITS

+

ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES

IT SOLUTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

COMMUNICATION IN ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION & IT ASSIGNMENT

ADMINISTRATION  
& IT  
SOCIAL STUDIES

Nat 4

## What skills will be developed?

- an understanding of administration in the workplace
- knowledge and understanding of key legislation affecting employees
- knowledge and understanding of the key features of good customer care
- IT skills in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations, desktop publishing in familiar contexts
- the ability to use IT skills in straightforward administrative tasks
- organisational skills in the context of organising and supporting small-scale events
- the ability to use technology appropriately for communication and investigation in familiar contexts
- skills in organising, processing and communicating simple information in familiar contexts
- knowledge and understanding of social issues such as internet safety, the impacts of IT
- problem-solving, team-working and using initiative

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning; group work and peer learning; internet research; visits
- collaborative learning: working in pairs, small groups or larger groups to deliver presentations or organise events
- space for personalisation and choice: learners could choose methods of communicating information; learners could choose tasks in the Added Value Unit (Assignment) which most suit their interests and abilities
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: communicating; reflecting; researching and presenting information; using technology.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be presented in a variety of ways such as e-portfolios, presentations, diaries, written work. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) will require learners to undertake practical administration and IT tasks in response to a brief, leading to a small-scale event or events.

# Summary of Art & Design National 4

**2**  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY**  
**DESIGN ACTIVITY**  
**PRACTICAL ACTIVITY**



## What skills will be developed?

- knowledge and understanding of artists, designers and their work
- understanding the factors that influence artists and designers
- experimenting with a variety of art and design materials
- practical skills in using materials, techniques and/or technology
- understanding artistic and cultural values, identities and ideas
- developing ideas
- researching and collating information from a range of sources
- understanding his/her own creative practice
- creativity and imaginative expression
- planning, critical thinking and problem-solving to find solutions to design briefs
- confidence in creative practice
- enjoyment in the arts
- communicating and representing ideas, thoughts and feelings visually

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning including planned critiques to discuss choices and monitor progress
- a blend of classroom approaches including experiential, practical learning
- collaborative learning: discussing, debating and sharing ideas and techniques; peer assessment to develop critical analysis skills as well as whole class learning. Collaboration projects might include: holding an art exhibition, working on a graphic design brief, producing material for a blog or website, organising a fashion show
- space for personalisation and choice: in both the expressive and the design units and in the practical activity
- applying learning to practical work with a solution-focused approach
- embedding literacy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking
- the Added Value Unit (Practical Activity) asks learners to produce a ‘final solution’ or piece of work for both the Expressive Unit and the Design Unit.

## Assessment

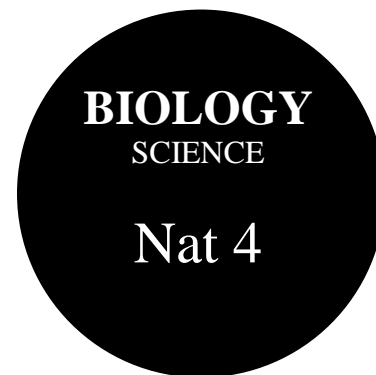
- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are as pass or fail assessed by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)  
Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) could take a variety of 2D or 3D forms. A portfolio may be prepared.



# Summary of BIOLOGY National 4

**3**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**CELL BIOLOGY**  
**MULTICELLULAR ORGANISMS**  
**LIFE ON EARTH**  
**ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**



## What skills will be developed?

- knowledge and understanding of biology
- an understanding of biology's role in scientific issues
- an understanding of biology in society and the environment
- scientific inquiry skills to plan and carry out experiments
- scientific analytical thinking skills in a biology context
- the ability to use technology, equipment and materials, in scientific activities
- problem-solving skills in a biology context
- finding associations and investigating models in real-life contexts
- use and understand scientific literacy to communicate ideas and issues
- information-handling skills (selecting, presenting, processing information)
- the ability to review science-based claims in media reports
- an understanding of the importance of accuracy
- evaluating environmental and scientific issues
- risk assessment and decision-making

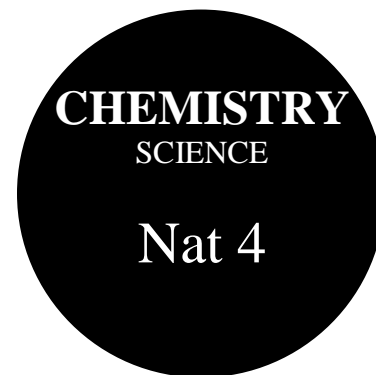
## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress, making independent decisions, using feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including experimental, hands-on, practical, investigative approaches, whole class discussions, interactive teaching
- collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities; cross-curricular learning eg with other sciences, mathematics, social studies, technologies or religious, moral and philosophical studies; with organisations such as STEMNET
- space for personalisation and choice: learners can choose what to observe or measure and their methodology; learners will choose the topic for their Added Value Unit (Assignment)
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching, selecting, summarising and presenting information; evaluating; recording and displaying data; interpreting data; using technology.

## Assessment

- To gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance )
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will ensure that learners can apply knowledge and understanding and scientific skills to an experiment or practical investigation. This may be evidenced in a portfolio of work
- The Assignment will require learners to research a topic of their choice, in consultation with their teacher. The investigation will be undertaken in up to 8 hours of class time and the findings will be written up in no more than 2 hours.

# Summary of Chemistry National 4



# 3

UNITS

+

ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**CHEMICAL CHANGES AND STRUCTURE**

**NATURE'S CHEMISTRY**

**CHEMISTRY IN SOCIETY**

**CHEMISTRY ASSIGNMENT**

## What skills will be developed?

- application of knowledge and understanding of chemistry
- scientific inquiry and investigation skills
- scientific analytical thinking skills
- the ability to use technology, equipment and materials
- questioning and independent thinking
- problem-solving in a chemistry context
- using and understanding scientific literacy in everyday contexts
- planning experiments
- recording observations
- collecting and analysing data
- reviewing and re-designing research methods
- evaluating
- communicating findings

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active, collaborative and independent learning
- a blend of classroom approaches: practical tasks (experiments and open-ended investigations); whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- space for personalisation and choice
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) allows learners to choose their research topic and present their findings
- collaborative learning: partnerships with learners in other curriculum areas; links with businesses, employers, organisations
- applying learning to familiar situations
- embedding literacy skills: selecting and assessing information, presenting findings; evaluating; debating; listening; reading; writing
- embedding numeracy skills: recording and displaying data in graphs/ tables; accuracy; interpreting and assessing data; using technologies.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units and the Assignment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be digital or spoken presentations, posters, leaflets, extended writing, notes or podcasts. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units.

# Summary of Computing Science National 4



**2**  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT**

**INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT**

**COMPUTING SCIENCE ASSIGNMENT**

## What skills will be developed?

- understanding the technologies that underpin the digital world
- essential skills for everyday life
- understanding and applying computational processes and thinking across straightforward contexts
- knowledge and understanding of key facts and ideas in computing science
- analysing, designing, modelling, implementing and testing digital solutions to straightforward problems
- programming skills
- communicating basic computing concepts
- planning, researching, organising and problem-solving
- understanding the impact of computing science on our society
- understanding the relationship between software, hardware and system performance
- understanding information representation and transfer

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including problem-solving in teams with specific roles, sharing learning through group and class discussion
- collaborative learning: the subject brings aspects of technology, science and creative digital media together, providing the opportunity for cross curricular learning and team-work
- space for personalisation and choice: learning activities can link to learners' own interests and learners can choose their issue for their Added Value Unit (Assignment)
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking; number processes; information handling
- the Assignment will involve learners analysing and solving a computing science problem and gathering evidence of progress (this could be recorded using a blog or a diary)
- the Added Value Unit is an Assignment which requires learners to analyse and solve a computing science problem and to gather evidence of progress (eg in a blog or diary).

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be written evidence, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work.

# Summary of Design and Manufacture National 4



2  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**DESIGN**

**MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING**

**DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE ASSIGNMENT**

## What skills will be developed?

- skills in the design and manufacturing of straightforward models, prototypes and products
- knowledge and understanding of manufacturing processes and materials
- an understanding of the impact of design and manufacturing technologies on our environment and society
- knowledge and understanding of industrial designers and commercial production
- the ability to devise design and manufacturing solutions to straightforward practical problems
- the ability to use simple modelling and manufacturing techniques in 3 D
- the ability to select and use with guidance a range of tools, equipment, software and materials with guidance
- the ability to communicate design proposals
- creativity in an exciting and dynamic technological context
- the ability to read drawings and diagrams
- planning, analysing and evaluation skills with support

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress, making independent decisions, responding to feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical, exploratory and experiential learning; using ICT; group work and peer learning
- collaborative learning: partnerships with learners and staff in other curricular areas such as Graphic Communication and Art and Design; partnerships with the wider community and professional practitioners eg architects, manufacturers, design studios
- space for personalisation and choice: there are opportunities for personalisation and choice throughout the course, including in the Assignment
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: explaining and justifying decisions; researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating; using ICT.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) could be sketch books, notes from group discussions, presentations, reviews and product evaluations, computer-generated class work. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) will involve learners being given a brief to which they will respond, applying skills and knowledge gained from the Units, to prepare a design folio and a prototype.

# Summary of English National 4



**3**  
**UNITS**  
  
+  
**ADDED**  
**VALUE**  
**UNIT**

## **ANALYSIS and EVALUATION**

- the receptive skills of reading and listening to understand, analyse and evaluate texts

## **CREATION and PRODUCTIVITY**

- the productive skills of writing and talking to create oral and written texts

## **LITERACY**

- the four skills of reading, listening, writing and talking in forms relevant to learning, life and work

## **ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT**

### **What skills will be developed?**

- an understanding of administration in the workplace
- knowledge and understanding of key legislation affecting employees
- knowledge and understanding of the key features of good customer care
- IT skills in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations, desktop publishing in familiar contexts
- the ability to use IT skills in straightforward administrative tasks
- organisational skills in the context of organising and supporting small-scale events
- the ability to use technology appropriately for communication and investigation in familiar contexts
- skills in organising, processing and communicating simple information in familiar contexts
- knowledge and understanding of social issues such as internet safety, the impacts of IT
- problem-solving, team-working and using initiative

### **What will be experienced during the course?**

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning; group work and peer learning; internet research; visits
- collaborative learning: working in pairs, small groups or larger groups to deliver presentations or organise events
- space for personalisation and choice: learners could choose methods of communicating information; learners could choose tasks in the Added Value Unit (Assignment) which most suit their interests and abilities
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: communicating; reflecting; researching and presenting information; using technology.

### **Assessment**

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be presented in a variety of ways such as e-portfolios, presentations, diaries, written work. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) will require learners to undertake practical administration and IT tasks in response to a brief, leading to a small-scale event or events.

# Summary of Geography National 4

# 3

UNITS

+

ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS**

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS**

**GLOBAL ISSUES**

**GEOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
SOCIAL STUDIES

Nat 4

## What skills will be developed?

- straightforward knowledge and understanding of our changing world and its human and physical processes
- a range of geographical skills, techniques and experiences including fieldwork and practical activities
- straightforward understanding of spatial relationships and of the changing world in a balanced, critical and sympathetic way
- a geographical perspective on environmental and social issues
- an open mind and respect for other values, beliefs and cultures
- an interest in, and concern for, the environment, leading to sustainable development and environmental stewardship
- using, interpreting and explaining a range of geographical information and geographical phenomena including maps and data
- the ability to investigate, research, critically evaluate and communicate information and findings
- an awareness of geographical information systems (eg using ICT)

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning through fieldwork; group work; whole class learning and teaching; discussion and debate; outdoor learning
- collaborative learning: learners can work in groups and with others locally, nationally and internationally; inter-curricular projects with the sciences and other social studies
- space for personalisation and choice: learners may choose their Assignment topic and their methods of researching and presenting evidence, including fieldwork
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') might include digital or oral presentations, recorded DVD/video, written work, podcasts, wall displays. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) will involve learners in selecting, researching and presenting findings on an issue of their choice, applying their knowledge and understanding.

# Summary of Graphic Communication National 4



2  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**2D GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION**

**3D AND PICTORIAL GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION**

**GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT**

## **What skills will be developed?**

- skills in 2D and 3D graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, materials and software, in straightforward and familiar contexts
- knowledge and understanding of graphic communication standards, protocols and conventions
- develop an understanding of the impact of graphic communication technologies on our environment and society
- an awareness of graphic communication as an international language
- the ability to read, interpret and create graphic communication
- design skills and creativity to develop solutions to simple graphics tasks
- planning, organising, critical thinking, evaluating and decision-making
- basic knowledge of computer-aided graphics techniques and practice
- knowledge of colour, illustration and presentation techniques in straightforward and familiar contexts

## **What will be experienced during the course?**

- active and independent learning through ownership of practical tasks, self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical, exploratory and experiential learning; using ICT
- collaborative learning: learners can work independently and with others
- space for personalisation and choice is embedded throughout the course
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating.

## **Assessment**

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) could be written evidence, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work. A portfolio may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) will involve learners being given a brief to which they will respond, applying skills and knowledge gained from the Units.

# Summary of Health and Food Technology National 4



**3**  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**FOOD FOR HEALTH**  
**FOOD PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**  
**CONTEMPORARY FOOD ISSUES**  
**HEALTH AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY ASSIGNMENT**

## What skills will be developed?

- knowledge of the relationships between health, food and nutrition
- the ability to produce food products which meet individual needs in straightforward contexts
- practical food preparation skills and techniques using appropriate tools and equipment
- knowledge of the functional properties of food
- knowledge of consumer food issues, choices and rights
- knowledge of technological developments in food
- the ability to prepare food safely and hygienically
- organisational skills in planning, preparing and reflecting on food products and processes
- problem-solving for straightforward health, food, nutrition and consumer needs
- the ability to produce food products which meet individual needs in straightforward contexts

## What will be experienced during the course?

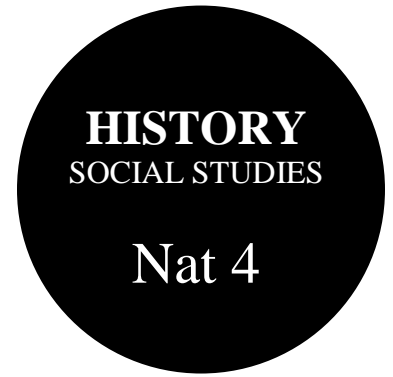
- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning; group work and peer learning
- collaborative learning: working in pairs, small groups or larger groups to prepare food products and meals or to research food issues
- space for personalisation and choice: learners could choose which food products to develop and which techniques to use; learners can choose how they respond to the brief in the Added Value Unit (Assignment)
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: weighing and measuring; estimation; communicating; reflecting and reviewing; researching and presenting information; using technology.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be presented in a variety of ways such as verbal or written feedback, written reports, completion of pro formas, responses, observational checklists, photographic or video evidence. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) will require learners to produce a food product in response to a brief.



# Summary of History National 4



**3**  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**HISTORICAL STUDY:**  
Medieval, Early Modern or Later Modern Periods

**SCOTTISH  
BRITISH  
EUROPEAN AND WORLD**

**GEOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT**

## What skills will be developed?

- exploring, analysing, evaluating, problem-solving, communicating for different purposes
- a conceptual understanding of the past
- a straightforward knowledge and understanding of the factors contributing to, and the impact of, historical events
- the ability to apply a straightforward historical perspective and comment on historical sources
- investigating historical events and forming views
- explaining historical events and drawing straightforward conclusions
- selecting and researching evidence
- organising and applying learning

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning by setting personal targets, reviewing and reflecting on progress and deciding next steps
- a blend of classroom approaches including whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- collaborative learning: through discussion/debate; in groups (to research a topic and share findings with the class); more widely (blogging and communicating findings with learner communities around the world)
- space for personalisation and choice: Assignment topic choice and methodology
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) allows learners to choose a historical theme, research it and present evidence of their extended learning.
- applying learning
- embedding literacy skills: selecting and assessing information, presenting findings; evaluating; debating; listening, reading, writing

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units and the assignment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be digital or spoken presentations, posters, leaflets, extended writing, notes or podcasts. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units.

# Summary of Lifeskills Mathematics National 4

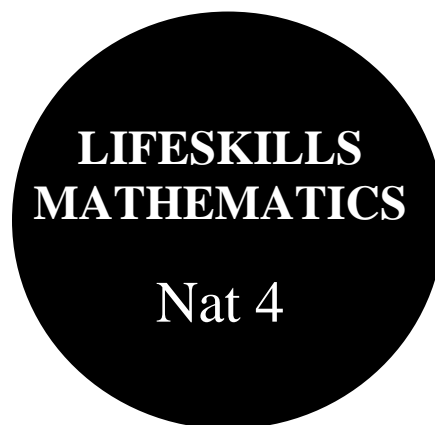
**3**  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

MANAGING FINANCES AND STATISTICS

GEOMETRY AND MEASURES

NUMERACY

MATHEMATICS TEST



## What skills will be developed?

- the ability to select and apply mathematical skills to straightforward real-life problems or situations
- the ability to interpret straightforward real-life situations and problems involving mathematics
- identify and apply appropriate mathematical operational skills to tackle straightforward real-life situations or problems
- confidence in the subject and a positive attitude towards the use of mathematics in straightforward real-life situations
- use mathematical operational skills to an appropriate degree of accuracy
- use mathematical reasoning skills to assess risk, draw conclusions or explain decisions
- communicate mathematical information in an appropriate way

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning will develop confidence and self-motivation as learners experience a range of tasks activities
- a blend of classroom approaches including whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching; teamwork; using IT
- collaborative learning using technology (blogs, software) to engage with others; partnerships with learners in the sciences, technologies, social subjects; partnerships with businesses and employers
- space for personalisation and choice for developing areas of interest
- applying learning to real-life situations and to course work in other subjects
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills by learning to use mathematical language and abstract terms; presenting information; interpreting information; evaluating.

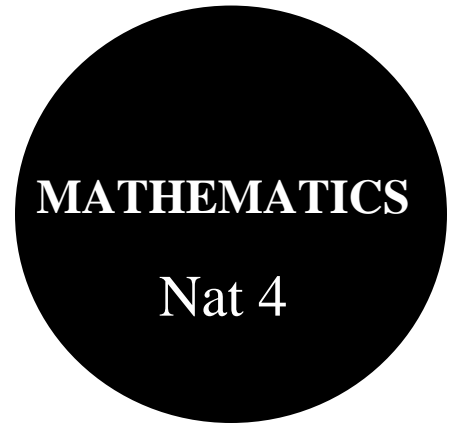
## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- assessment (or 'evidence of learning') may be gathered through class work, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work, photographs. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- the Added Value Unit (the Test) is in two parts (non calculator and calculator).

# Summary of Mathematics National 4

**3**  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**EXPRESSIONS AND FORMULAE**  
**RELATIONSHIPS**  
**NUMERACY**  
**MATHEMATICS TEST**



## What skills will be developed?

- understanding and applying straightforward mathematical skills in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and statistics
- using mathematical techniques and reasoning skills to solve mathematical problems
- a positive attitude to mathematics based on an understanding of its use in real-life situations
- skills in using mathematical language and exploring mathematical ideas
- resilience and confidence in problem-solving
- analytical skills
- understanding the importance of accuracy
- interpreting, communicating and managing information in mathematical form
- logical reasoning skills
- communicating solutions, using presentation skills
- decision-making
- creativity and deduction
- leadership and teamwork skills in group activities

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning will develop confidence and self-motivation as learners experience a range of tasks activities
- a blend of classroom approaches including whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- space for personalisation and choice for developing areas of interest
- collaborative learning using technology (blogs, software) to engage with others; partnerships with learners in the sciences, technologies, social subjects
- applying learning to real-life situations and to course work in other subjects
- embedding literacy skills by learning to use mathematical language and abstract terms.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units including the Added Value Unit (test)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- assessment (or 'evidence of learning') may be gathered through class work, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work, photographs. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- the Added Value Unit (the Test) is in two parts (non calculator and calculator).

# Summary of Modern Languages National 4

# 2

UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

## UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGES

Receptive skills – listening and reading in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

## USING LANGUAGES

Productive skills – talking and writing in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

## MODERN LANGUAGES ASSESSMENT



### What skills will be developed?

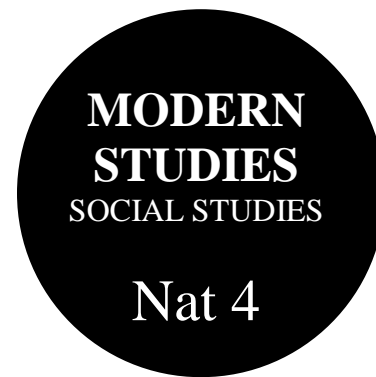
- reading, listening, talking and writing in a modern language
- the ability to understand and use a modern language
- applying knowledge of a modern language
- applying grammatical knowledge
- plan, research and apply straightforward language skills
- the development of cultural awareness
- develop creative and critical thinking
- develop literacy skills and reflect on how this relates to English
- develop an understanding of how language works
- using different media effectively for learning and communication
- using straightforward language to communicate ideas and information
- explore the interconnected nature of languages
- analysis and evaluation eg defining the purpose of a text
- dictionary skills

### What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, using feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including group and class discussion, game-based learning, websites, interactive tasks using IT, video conferencing, audio recordings
- collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities eg paired reading, ‘give one, get one’ and jigsaw activities; holding debates; links with other curricular areas
- space for personalisation and choice: learners will choose the topic for their Added Value Unit (Assignment)
- applying learning
- embedding literacy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking; reading; writing.

### Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- evidence of assessment of reading, listening, talking and writing will be required. A portfolio may be prepared
- the Assignment will require learners to investigate and report on a chosen topic with an oral presentation and questions.



# 3

UNITS

**DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

+

ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**MODERN STUDIES ASSIGNMENT**

## What skills will be developed?

- straightforward knowledge and understanding of the main democratic processes, institutions and organisations in Scotland and/or the UK
- straightforward knowledge and understanding of social and economic issues at local, Scottish, national and international levels and ways of addressing needs and inequalities
- awareness of different views about the extent of state involvement in society
- the ability to detect and explain bias and exaggeration
- an awareness of the nature and processes of conflict resolution
- straightforward understanding of human and legal rights and responsibilities and their application in different societies
- a range of research and information handling skills and the ability to draw valid conclusions from evidence
- critical thinking skills such as explaining, analysing, evaluating

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, learning logs
- a blend of classroom approaches including visits and real life contexts; teamwork approaches; whole class learning; staff-led questioning; discussion and debate
- collaborative learning: in groups and with others locally, nationally and internationally; inter-curricular projects with English, maths and other social studies
- space for personalisation and choice: learners may choose their Assignment topic and their methods of researching and presenting evidence
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information including statistics; evaluating; communicating.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') might include digital or oral presentations, recorded DVD/video, written work, podcasts, wall displays, extended writing. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) will involve learners in selecting, researching and presenting findings on an issue of their choice, applying their knowledge and understanding.

# Summary of Music National 4

**3**  
UNITS

**PERFORMING SKILLS**  
**COMPOSING SKILLS**  
**UNDERSTANDING MUSIC**

+

**ADDED VALUE UNIT**  
**PERFORMANCE**



## What skills will be developed?

- sufficiently accurate performing skills in solo and/or group settings on two selected instruments or on one instrument and voice
- the ability to create original music using straightforward compositional methods and music concepts when composing, arranging or improvising
- knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural factors influencing music
- knowledge and understanding of music and musical literacy by listening to music
- identifying level-specific annotated music signs, symbols, concepts and styles
- understanding the creative process and expressing him or herself through music
- critical and analytical listening skills and evaluation for improvement
- personal creativity and applying music concepts to personal practice

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning; using music technology such as audio recordings, computer music programmes
- collaborative learning: with others in multi-instrument groups; shared listening experiences; whole class discussion and exploration; group improvisation; curricular links with the expressive arts and languages
- space for personalisation and choice: learners may choose research and presentation methods, musical pieces, composition style
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will demonstrate performing competence in two instruments or one instrument and voice; compositional skills; and evidence of knowledge of music concepts, literacy, notation, extracts and styles. Evidence may be oral, observational, a diary or blog or may be gathered through video or audio recordings, presentations, podcasts, answers to questions and may be stored in an e-portfolio
- the Added Value Unit (Performance) will require learners to prepare and perform a programme of music.

# Summary of Physical Education National 4



2  
UNITS  
+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

**PERFORMANCE SKILLS**

**FACTORS IMPACTING ON PERFORMANCE**

**PERFORMANCE**

## What skills will be developed?

- effective and safe performance in a range of physical activities
- identifying impacts on performance (wellbeing factors)
- positive attitudes, fitness, self-reliance and self-management
- recording, monitoring and reflecting on performance development
- researching to develop knowledge, understanding and skills
- decision-making and problem-solving in straightforward contexts
- selecting and applying skills
- planning, preparing and organisational skills
- carrying out roles and responsibilities
- demonstrating appropriate etiquette and following rules and guidelines
- evaluation and analysis
- communication and interpersonal skills to build positive relationships
- strategic skills
- confidence and creativity

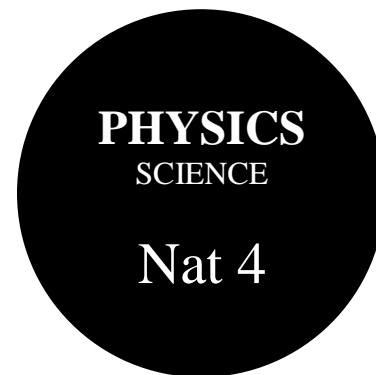
## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning to develop and consolidate skills, improve fitness and enhance wellbeing
- a blend of classroom approaches including experiential, practical learning
- collaborative learning: learning from each other, in partnership and in teams as well as through whole class learning
- space for personalisation and choice: learners select their activities
- the Added Value Unit (Performance) allows learners to choose their own specialism
- applying learning
- embedding literacy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') may be videos of performance, peer and self-reflection, graphic organisers, cause and effect, Q charts, oral evidence through question/answer sessions, use of ICT. A portfolio may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit consists of a Performance in an activity of the learner's choice.

# Summary of Physics National 4



**3**  
UNITS

**ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY**

**WAVES AND RADIATION**

**DYNAMICS AND SPACE**

+

**ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT**

**PHYSICS ASSIGNMENT**

## What skills will be developed?

- knowledge and understanding of physics
- an understanding of the role of physics in scientific issues and relevant applications of physics in society and the environment
- scientific inquiry, investigative, analytical and evaluative thinking skills in physics and real life contexts
- the ability to use technology, equipment and materials
- problem-solving skills in a physics context
- scientific literacy, in everyday contexts, to communicate ideas and issues
- an insight into the underlying nature of our world and its place in the universe
- an understanding of the processes behind scientific advances
- information-handling skills and drawing valid conclusions
- an understanding the importance of accuracy
- the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in physics

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, making independent decisions, using feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including experimental, practical and investigative approaches, whole class discussions and interactive teaching
- collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities; intercurricular learning with other sciences, mathematics, technologies, religious and moral education; with organisations such as STEMNET
- space for personalisation and choice: learners can choose what to observe or measure and their methodology; learners will choose the topic for their Added Value Unit (Assignment)
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching, selecting, summarising and presenting information using a range of sources; evaluating; recording and interpreting data; using technology and data loggers.

## Assessment

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will ensure that learners can apply knowledge and understanding and scientific skills to an experiment or practical investigation. This may be evidenced in a portfolio of work
- the Added Value Unit (Assignment) will require learners to research a topical physics issue during approximately 8 hours of class time. Findings will be written up in timed conditions (up to two hours).



# Summary of Practical Woodworking National 4



**3**  
UNITS

**FLAT-FRAME CONSTRUCTION**

**CARCASE CONSTRUCTION**

**MACHINING AND FINISHING**

+

**ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT**

**PRACTICAL ACTIVITY – MAKING A FINISHED  
PRODUCT FROM WOOD**

## **What skills will be developed?**

- skills in woodworking techniques for straightforward and familiar tasks
- using a range of woodworking tools, equipment and materials safely and correctly, with guidance
- reading and interpreting simple drawings and diagrams
- measuring and marking out straightforward timber sections and sheet materials
- straightforward cutting and shaping tasks
- practical creativity in the context of simple and familiar woodworking tasks
- following given stages to take a practical problem-solving approach to woodworking tasks with guidance
- awareness of safe working practices in a workshop environment
- knowledge of the basic properties and uses of common woodworking materials
- knowledge of sustainability issues in a practical woodworking context

## **What will be experienced during the course?**

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, group feedback, reflecting on learning, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning in real-life contexts; whole class learning; team working; visits
- collaborative learning: working in pairs, small groups or larger groups; working with partners in other Technologies subjects, Maths, Sciences
- space for personalisation and choice: learners can choose how they develop their Practical Activity
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: interpreting drawings/ diagrams, measuring, marking out, analysing data, designing.

## **Assessment**

- to gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) could be presented in a variety of ways such as completed tasks, records of the task development (blogs, logs, diaries). A portfolio of work (including a learner checklist) may be prepared
- the Added Value Unit (Practical Activity) will require learners to produce a finished product in wood, completing a record of progress and an evaluation of the project.



# SECTION 2

# NATIONAL 5 COURSES



# Summary of Administration & IT National 5

# 3

UNITS

+

COURSE

ASSESSMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES

IT SOLUTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

COMMUNICATION IN ADMINISTRATION

ADDED VALUE UNIT :

ADMINISTRATION & IT ASSIGNMENT

**ADMINISTRATION  
& IT  
SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Nat 5**

## What skills will be developed?

- an understanding of administration in the workplace and of the attributes required of good administrators
- knowledge and understanding of key legislation affecting organisations and employees
- knowledge and understanding the benefits to organisations of good customer care
- IT skills in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations, desktop publishing in familiar and some unfamiliar contexts
- the ability to use IT skills in more complex administrative tasks
- organisational skills in the context of organising and supporting events
- the ability to use technology appropriately for communication and investigation in familiar and some unfamiliar contexts
- skills in organising, processing and communicating information in largely familiar contexts
- knowledge and understanding of social issues such as business use of IT and the impacts of IT
- problem-solving, team-working and using initiative

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning; group work and peer learning; internet research; visits
- collaborative learning: working in pairs, small groups or larger groups to deliver presentations or organise events
- space for personalisation and choice: learners could choose methods of communicating information.
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: communicating; reflecting; researching and presenting information; using technology.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be presented in a variety of ways such as e-portfolios, audio and video recordings, presentations, diaries, written work. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Course Assessment consists of an Assignment which will require learners to use their knowledge and skills to prepare for and support an event. This will be assessed and graded A to D by the SQA.

# Summary of Art & Design National 5

**2**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY**  
**DESIGN ACTIVITY**  
**PORTFOLIO AND QUESTION PAPER**



## What skills will be developed?

- a greater knowledge, understanding and ability to critically analyse artists and designers as creative practitioners
- a deeper understanding of external factors influencing artists and designers
- experimenting with a variety of art and design materials to refine ideas
- practical skills in using materials, techniques and/or technology
- producing analytical drawings and investigative studies
- creativity and imaginative expression
- critical appreciation of aesthetic and cultural values, identities and ideas
- planning, producing and presenting creative art and design work
- investigating and analysing how artists/designers use materials/techniques
- applying this knowledge to his/her own creative practice
- problem-solving and critical analysis to find solutions to design briefs
- confidence in creative practice and in creative self-expression
- enjoyment in the arts

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning including learning intentions and success criteria; planned critiques and ongoing dialogue to discuss choices and monitor progress, then plan next steps
- a blend of classroom approaches including experiential, practical learning with staff facilitating, guiding and supporting learners
- collaborative learning: discussing, debating and sharing ideas and techniques; peer assessment to develop critical analysis skills as well as whole class learning
- collaboration projects might include: holding an art exhibition, working on a graphic design brief, producing material for a blog or website, organising a fashion show
- space for personalisation and choice: in both the expressive and the design units and in the Portfolio, with extensive research options
- applying learning to practical work with a solution-focused approach
- embedding literacy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking.

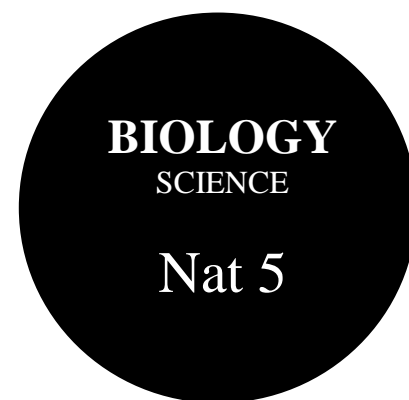
## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass both Units and the Course Assessment (the Portfolio and the Question Paper)
- Units are assessed by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will show competence in each of the two Units in 2D or 3D and may include sketch books, extended writing, notes, group discussions, reviews, critiques
- the Course Assessment consists of the Portfolio (showing development and evaluation leading to one final piece of expressive art work and one final design solution) and the Question Paper (exam). These will be marked by the SQA.

# Summary of BIOLOGY National 5

**3**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**CELL BIOLOGY**  
**MULTICELLULAR ORGANISMS**  
**LIFE ON EARTH**  
**ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**



## What skills will be developed?

- a deeper knowledge and understanding of biology
- a deeper understanding of biology's role in scientific issues
- an understanding of biology in society and the environment
- scientific inquiry skills to plan and carry out experiments
- scientific analytical thinking skills in a biology context
- the ability to use technology, equipment and materials, in scientific activities
- problem-solving skills in a biology context
- use and understand scientific literacy, to communicate ideas and issues
- finding associations and investigating models in real-life contexts
- information-handling skills (selecting, presenting, processing information)
- the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in biology
- the ability to review science-based claims in media reports
- an understanding of the importance of accuracy
- evaluating environmental and scientific issues
- risk assessment and decision-making

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, using feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including more challenging experimental, practical, investigative approaches, whole class, small group, one-to-one discussions, interactive teaching
- collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities; cross-curricular learning eg with other sciences, mathematics, social studies, technologies or RMPS; with organisations such as STEMNET
- space for personalisation and choice: the Assignment can be on a topic agreed by the learner and the teacher
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching, processing and presenting information (using calculations and units); evaluating; recording, displaying and interpreting data; using technology.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will demonstrate that learners can apply knowledge and understanding and scientific skills to an experiment or practical investigation and report on the investigation. This may be evidenced in a portfolio of work
- the Course Assessment will be a two-section Question Paper and an Assignment which will require learners to research a topical issue. The Course Assessment will be marked by the SQA and graded A to D.

# Summary of Chemistry National 5

# 3

UNITS

+

COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**CHEMICAL CHANGES AND STRUCTURE**

**NATURE'S CHEMISTRY**

**CHEMISTRY IN SOCIETY**

**ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**

**CHEMISTRY**  
SCIENCE

**Nat 5**

## What skills will be developed?

- application of knowledge to new situations and a more advanced understanding of chemistry and its impact
- scientific inquiry and investigation skills
- scientific analytical thinking skills
- the ability to use technology, equipment and materials
- questioning and independent thinking
- problem-solving in a chemistry context
- using and understanding scientific literacy in everyday contexts
- planning experiments to test hypotheses or illustrate effects
- recording observations
- collecting, processing and analysing data
- making predictions and generalisations based on evidence
- drawing valid conclusions with explanations and evidence

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active, collaborative and independent learning
- a blend of classroom approaches: practical tasks (experiments and open-ended investigations); whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- space for personalisation and choice
- collaborative learning: partnerships with learners in other curriculum areas; links with businesses, employers, organisations
- applying learning to new situations
- embedding literacy skills: selecting and assessing information, presenting findings; evaluating; debating; listening; reading; writing
- embedding numeracy skills: recording and displaying data in graphs/ tables; accuracy; interpreting and assessing data; using technologies.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (the Assignment and the Question Paper)
- Units are assessed by schools/centres (following SQA external quality assurance)
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be digital or spoken presentations, posters, leaflets, extended writing, notes or podcasts. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- the Course Assessment consists of the Assignment (a research investigation on a key topic, its application and its impact on society/environment. This will be presented as a report, researched in advance and written up under controlled conditions with the pupil's research/data available) and a Question Paper (exam). Both are marked by the SQA and will be graded A to D.



# Summary of Computing Science National 5

**2**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**



## What skills will be developed?

- understanding of the technologies that underpin the digital world
- essential skills for everyday life
- understanding and applying computational processes and thinking
- knowledge and understanding of key facts and ideas in computing science
- analysing, designing, modelling, implementing, testing and evaluating digital solutions (including computer programs) to problems
- reading and interpreting code
- computational thinking
- programming skills and software and information system design
- communicating computing concepts and computational behaviour
- planning, researching, organising and problem-solving with complex features
- understanding the impact of computing science on our society
- understanding the legal and environmental implications of IT
- understanding information representation and transfer

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including problem-solving in teams with specific roles, sharing learning through group and class discussion
- collaborative learning: the subject brings aspects of technology, science and creative digital media together, providing the opportunity for cross curricular learning and team-work
- space for personalisation and choice: learning activities can link to learners' own interests
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking; number processes; information handling.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be written evidence, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work
- the Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (learners will analyse and solve a computing science problem and gather evidence) and a Question Paper (exam). Both are marked by the SQA and are graded A to D.

# Summary of Design and Manufacture National 5

**2**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**DESIGN**  
**MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING**  
**QUESTION PAPER AND ASSIGNMENT**



## What skills will be developed?

- skills in the design and manufacturing of straightforward models, prototypes and products
- knowledge and understanding of manufacturing processes and materials
- an understanding of the impact of design and manufacturing technologies on our environment and society
- knowledge and understanding of industrial designers and commercial production
- the ability to devise design and manufacturing solutions to straightforward and more complex practical problems
- the ability to select and use a range of tools, equipment, software and materials
- the ability to use modelling and manufacturing techniques in 3 D
- the ability to communicate design proposals
- creativity in an exciting and dynamic technological context
- the ability to evaluate and apply suggestions for improvement
- the ability to read drawings and diagrams
- planning, analysing and evaluation skills

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress, making independent decisions, responding to feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical, exploratory and experiential learning; using ICT; group work and peer learning
- collaborative learning: partnerships with learners and staff in other curricular areas such as Art and Design; partnerships with the wider community and professional practitioners eg architects, manufacturers, design studios
- space for personalisation and choice: there are opportunities for personalisation and choice throughout the course, including in the Assignment
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: explaining and justifying decisions; researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating; using ICT.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) could be sketch books, notes from group discussions, presentations, reviews and product evaluations, computer-generated class work. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Course Assessment consists of a two-section Question Paper (exam marked by the SQA) and an Assignment (marked in accordance with SQA guidelines). For the Assignment, learners will be given a brief for which they prepare a design folio and a prototype, applying skills and knowledge gained from the Units. The Course Assessment will be graded A to D.

# Summary of English National 5



# 2

UNITS

+

COURSE

ASSESSMENT

## **ANALYSIS and EVALUATION**

– the receptive skills of reading and listening to understand, analyse and evaluate texts

## **CREATION and PRODUCTIVITY**

– the productive skills of writing and talking to create oral and written texts

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT: PORTFOLIO OF WORK**

**+ QUESTION PAPER**

### **What skills will be developed?**

- understanding, explaining, analysing and evaluating detailed texts (language, literature and media) in oral and written forms
- creating, structuring and producing detailed texts for different purposes
- developing detailed language skills in language, literature and media contexts
- using different media for learning and communication
- social and interpersonal skills
- identifying sources, selecting and using information
- planning, researching and decision-making
- effective questioning and reflection
- justifying ideas with evidence
- communicating ideas, feelings and information orally and in writing with technical accuracy
- understanding how language works
- developing cultural awareness
- using creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments

### **What will be experienced during the course?**

- active and independent learning by setting personal targets, reviewing and reflecting on progress and deciding next steps
- a blend of classroom approaches including whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- collaborative learning: in groups or pairs to encourage team-working, relationship-building, the verbalisation of ideas; with learners in other curricular areas to reinforce and transfer skills
- space for personalization and choice: Selecting texts and ways of showing evidence (presentation, e-document, critical essay); choice of Assignment topic
- applying learning
- embedding literacy skills: selecting and assessing information, presenting findings; evaluating; debating; listening, reading, writing.

### **Assessment**

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (the Portfolio and the Question Paper)
- Units are assessed by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit Assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) for the units could be digital or spoken presentations, posters, leaflets, extended writing, notes or podcasts
- the Course Assessment consists of the Portfolio of written work and a Question Paper (exam) which will incorporate a question on a selected Scottish text as well as a critical essay on any text of their choosing. Both are marked by the SQA and will be graded A to D.

# Summary of Geography National 5

# 3

UNITS

+

COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS**

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS**

**GLOBAL ISSUES**

**ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
SOCIAL STUDIES

**Nat 5**

## What skills will be developed?

- detailed knowledge and understanding of our changing world and its human and physical processes
- a range of geographical skills, techniques and experiences including fieldwork and practical activities
- detailed understanding of spatial relationships and of the changing world in a balanced, critical and sympathetic way
- a geographical perspective on environmental and social issues
- an open mind and respect for other values, beliefs and cultures
- an interest in, and concern for, the environment, leading to sustainable development and environmental stewardship
- using, interpreting and explaining a range of geographical information and geographical phenomena including maps and data
- the ability to investigate, research, critically evaluate and communicate information and findings
- an awareness of geographical information systems (eg using ICT)

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning through fieldwork; group work; whole class learning and teaching; discussion and debate; outdoor learning
- collaborative learning: learners can work in groups and with others locally, nationally and internationally; inter-curricular projects with the sciences and other social studies
- space for personalisation and choice: learners may choose their Assignment topic and research methodology, including fieldwork
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) might include more in-depth digital or oral presentations, recorded DVD/video, written work, podcasts, wall displays. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Course Assessment consists of an Assignment and a Question Paper (exam marked by the SQA). The Assignment will involve learners in selecting, researching and presenting findings on an issue of their choice, applying their knowledge and understanding. It will be written up under timed conditions (one hour). The Course Assessment is marked by the SQA and is graded A to D.

# Summary of Graphic Communication National 5

## 2 UNITS + COURSE ASSESSMENT

2D GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION  
3D AND PICTORIAL GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION  
ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER



### What skills will be developed?

- broader and deeper skills in 2D and 3D graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, materials and software in familiar and in unfamiliar contexts
- knowledge and understanding of graphic communication standards, protocols and conventions in unfamiliar contexts
- an understanding of the impact of graphic communication technologies on our environment and society
- an awareness of graphic communication as an international language
- the ability to read, interpret and create graphic communication
- to develop solutions to graphics tasks with some complex features
- planning, organising, critical thinking, evaluating and decision-making
- basic knowledge of computer-aided graphics techniques and practice
- knowledge of colour, illustration and presentation techniques
- describe, respond to and analyse the work of others

### What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through ownership of practical tasks, self and peer evaluations, setting agreed learning intentions and success criteria and using feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical, exploratory and experiential learning; using ICT
- collaborative learning: learners can work independently and with others on group enterprise tasks
- space for personalisation and choice is embedded throughout the course
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating; discussion.

### Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course
- assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will demonstrate learners' responses to graphic communication tasks. This could be written evidence, printed material, CAD drawings, notes, group discussions, presentations, reviews of sketches. A portfolio of evidence may be prepared
- the Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (a brief to develop into a final solution, marked internally using SQA guidelines) and a Question Paper (exam marked by the SQA) of 1 hour and 30 minutes. grades of A to D will be awarded.

# Summary of Health and Food Technology National 5

**3**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**FOOD FOR HEALTH**  
**FOOD PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**  
**CONTEMPORARY FOOD ISSUES**

**ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**



## What skills will be developed?

- knowledge and understanding of the relationships between health, food and nutrition
- the ability to produce food products which meet individual needs in range of contexts
- a range of practical food preparation skills and techniques using appropriate tools and equipment
- knowledge and understanding of the functional properties of food
- knowledge and understanding of consumer food issues, choices and rights
- knowledge of technological developments in food
- the ability to prepare food safely and hygienically
- organisational skills in planning, preparing and evaluating food products and processes
- problem-solving for a range of health, food, nutrition and consumer needs

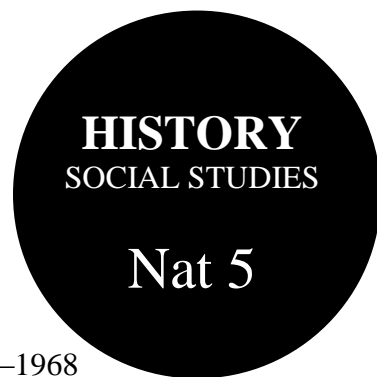
## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, making independent decisions
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning; group work and peer learning
- collaborative learning: working in pairs, small groups or larger groups to prepare food products and meals or to research food issues
- space for personalisation and choice: learners could choose which food products to develop and which techniques to use; learners can choose how they respond to the brief in the Course Assessment (Assignment)
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: weighing and measuring; estimation; communicating; reflecting and reviewing; researching and presenting information; using technology.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be presented in a variety of ways such as verbal or written feedback, written reports, completion of pro formas, responses, observational checklists, photographic or video evidence. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Course Assessment consists of an Assignment and a Question Paper (exam). The Assignment will require learners to respond to a brief to investigate, plan, develop and evaluate a food product. The Course Assessment will be marked by the SQA and graded A to D.

# Summary of History National 5



# 3

UNITS

+

COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

## **HISTORICAL STUDY: SCOTTISH**

five topic choices eg Mary Queen of Scots and the Reformation

## **HISTORICAL STUDY: BRITISH**

five topic choices eg The Atlantic Slave Trade 1770–1807

## **HISTORICAL STUDY: EUROPEAN AND WORLD**

ten topic choices eg Free At Last? Civil Rights in the USA 1918–1968

## **ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**

### **What skills will be developed?**

- exploring, analysing, describing, explaining
- developing a detailed knowledge and understanding of historical themes and events
- evaluating the impact of historical developments
- evaluating the origin, purpose, content/context of historical sources
- handling a variety of primary and secondary sources eg print, photographs, artefacts, newspaper archives, oral recordings
- comparing and contextualising those sources and drawing reasoned conclusions from them
- presenting information and views
- researching, organising and analysing information
- decision-making and problem-solving
- communicating for different purposes
- thinking independently

### **What will be experienced during the course?**

- active, collaborative and independent learning
- a blend of classroom approaches: whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- space for personalisation and choice: Assignment topic choice and methodology
- collaborative learning: through discussion/debate; in groups (to research a topic and share findings with the class); more widely (blogging and communicating findings with learner communities around the world)
- applying learning
- embedding literacy skills: selecting and assessing information, presenting findings; evaluating; debating; listening; reading; writing.

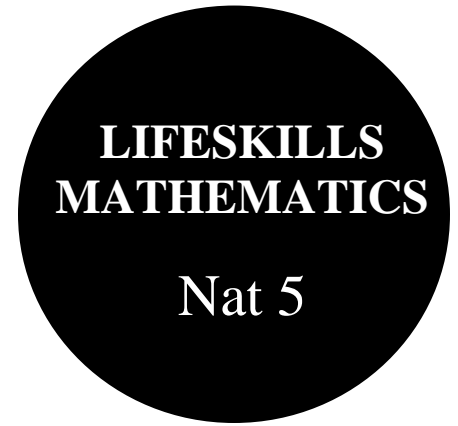
### **Assessment**

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (the Assignment and the Question Paper)
- Units are assessed by schools/centres (following SQA external quality assurance)
- Unit Assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) could be digital or spoken presentations, posters, leaflets, extended writing, notes or podcasts. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- the Course Assessment consists of the Assignment (a report on a historical issue of the learner’s own choice, researched in advance and written up under controlled conditions) and a Question Paper (exam). Both are marked by the SQA and will be graded A to D.

# Summary of Lifeskills Mathematics National 5

**3**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**MANAGING FINANCES AND STATISTICS**  
**GEOMETRY AND MEASURES**  
**NUMERACY**  
**MATHEMATICS TEST**



## What skills will be developed?

- the ability to select and apply mathematical skills to a range of real-life problems or situations
- analyse real-life situations with some complex features involving mathematics
- the ability to interpret straightforward real-life situations and problems involving mathematics
- identify, combine, adapt valid mathematical operational skills to tackle unfamiliar real-life situations or problems
- confidence in the subject and a positive attitude towards the use of mathematics in unfamiliar real-life situations
- use mathematical operational skills to an appropriate degree of accuracy
- use mathematical reasoning skills to generalise, build arguments, draw logical conclusions and justify decisions
- communicate mathematical information in a variety of ways
- the ability to think creatively and in abstract ways

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning will develop confidence and self-motivation as learners experience a range of tasks activities
- a blend of classroom approaches including whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching; teamwork; using IT
- collaborative learning using technology (blogs, software) to engage with others; partnerships with learners in the sciences, technologies, social subjects; partnerships with businesses and employers
- space for personalisation and choice for developing areas of interest
- applying learning to real-life situations and to course work in other subjects
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills by learning to use mathematical language and abstract terms; presenting information; interpreting information; evaluating.

## Assessment

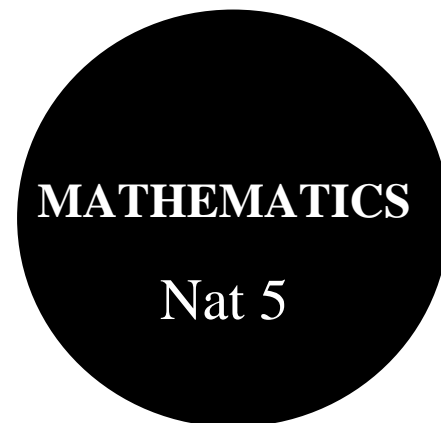
- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- assessment (or 'evidence of learning') may be gathered through class work, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work, photographs. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- the Course Assessment consists of two Question Papers (exams), Paper 1 (non-calculator) and Paper 2 (calculator). The Course Assessment is marked by the SQA and is graded A to D.



# Summary of Mathematics National 5

**3**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**EXPRESSIONS AND FORMULAE**  
**RELATIONSHIPS**  
**APPLICATIONS**  
**MATHEMATICS TEST**



## What skills will be developed?

- understanding and applying mathematical skills in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and statistics
- simplifying and solving problems
- selecting and applying mathematical techniques to real-life contexts
- making connections and informed predictions
- using mathematical language and exploring mathematical ideas
- resilience and confidence in problem-solving
- analytical and evaluative skills
- interpreting, communicating and managing information in mathematical form
- logical reasoning skills
- assessing risk and making informed decisions
- creativity and the ability to think in abstract ways
- the manipulation of abstract terms to solve problems and generalise

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning will develop confidence and self-motivation as learners experience a range of tasks and activities
- a blend of classroom approaches including whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- space for personalisation and choice for developing areas of interest
- collaborative learning using technology (blogs, software) to engage with others; partnerships with learners in the sciences, technologies, social subjects
- applying learning to real-life situations and to course work in other subjects
- embedding literacy skills by learning to use mathematical language and abstract terms.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (two Question Papers)
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') may be gathered through class work, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work, photographs or project or investigative work. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- the Course Assessment consists of two Question Papers (exams marked by the SQA) and is graded A to D.

# Summary of Modern Languages National 5

**2**  
**UNITS**  
+  
**COURSE**  
**ASSESSMENT**

## **UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGES**

Receptive skills – listening and reading in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

## **USING LANGUAGES**

Productive skills – talking and writing in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

## **2 QUESTION PAPERS AND PERFORMANCE**



### **What skills will be developed?**

- reading, listening, talking and writing in a modern language
- the ability to understand and use a modern language
- applying knowledge of a modern language
- applying grammatical knowledge
- plan, research and apply detailed, more complex language skills
- the development of cultural awareness
- develop creative and critical thinking
- develop literacy skills and reflect on how this relates to English
- develop an understanding of how language works
- using different media effectively for learning and communication
- using detailed, more complex language to communicate ideas and information
- explore the interconnected nature of languages
- analysis and evaluation eg defining the purpose of a text
- dictionary skills

### **What will be experienced during the course?**

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, using feedback, practising extended writing in timed conditions
- a blend of classroom approaches including group and class discussion, game-based learning, websites, interactive tasks using IT, video conferencing, audio recordings
- collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities eg paired reading, ‘give one, get one’ and jigsaw activities; holding debates; links with other curricular areas
- space for personalisation and choice: learners can choose their topics for their Performance as well as topics within the Units
- applying learning
- embedding literacy: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking; reading; writing.

### **Assessment**

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (two Question Papers and a Performance)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) could be digital or spoken presentations, discussions, extended writing, notes, multi-modal texts or podcasts. A portfolio to show progress through the units may be prepared
- the Course Assessment consists of two Question Papers (exams marked by the SQA), Paper 1 (reading and writing) and Paper 2 (listening). The Performance is a presentation followed by questions (internally assessed in accordance with SQA guidelines). The Assessment is graded A to D.



# 3

UNITS

**DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

+

**COURSE ASSESSMENT**

**ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**

## What skills will be developed?

- detailed knowledge and understanding of the main democratic processes, institutions and organisations in Scotland and/or the UK
- detailed knowledge and understanding of social and economic issues at local, Scottish, national and international levels and ways of addressing needs and inequalities
- awareness of different views about the extent of state involvement in society
- the ability to detect and explain bias and exaggeration
- an awareness of the nature and processes of conflict resolution
- straightforward understanding of human and legal rights and responsibilities and their application in different societies
- a range of research and information handling skills
- the ability to draw valid conclusions from evidence
- critical thinking skills such as explaining, analysing, evaluating

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, learning logs
- a blend of classroom approaches including visits and real life contexts; teamwork approaches; whole class learning; staff-led questioning; discussion and debate
- collaborative learning: in groups and with others locally, nationally and internationally; inter-curricular projects with English, maths and other social studies
- space for personalisation and choice: learners may select topics within units, choose their Assignment topic and their methods of researching and presenting evidence
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information including statistics; evaluating; communicating.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) might include more in-depth digital or oral presentations, recorded DVD/video, written work, podcasts, wall displays, extended writing. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- the Course Assessment consists of an Assignment and a Question Paper. Learners will research a topical issue and write up their findings (in timed conditions of one hour). The Course Assessment will be marked by the SQA and graded A to D.

# Summary of Music National 5



# 3

UNITS

**PERFORMING SKILLS**

**COMPOSING SKILLS**

**UNDERSTANDING MUSIC**

+

**COURSE  
ASSESSMENT**

**PERFORMANCE AND QUESTION PAPER**

## What skills will be developed?

- sufficiently accurate performing skills in solo and/or group settings on two selected instruments or on one instrument and voice
- the ability to create original music using compositional methods and music concepts and music concepts when composing, arranging or improvising
- deeper knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural factors influencing music
- deeper knowledge and understanding of music and musical literacy by listening to music
- identifying level-specific annotated music signs, symbols, concepts and styles
- understanding the creative process and expressing him or herself through music
- personal creativity and applying music concepts to personal practice
- critical and analytical listening skills and evaluation for improvement

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, responding to feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including practical and experiential learning; using music technology such as audio recordings, computer music programmes
- collaborative learning: with others in multi-instrument groups; shared listening experiences; whole class discussion and exploration; group improvisation; curricular links with the expressive arts and languages
- space for personalisation and choice: in research methodology, choice of pieces, composition style
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; communicating.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Question Paper and Performance)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will demonstrate performing competence in two instruments or one instrument and voice; compositional skills; and evidence of knowledge of music concepts, literacy, notation, extracts and styles. Evidence may be oral, observational, a diary or blog or presentations, podcasts, answers to questions and may be stored in an e-portfolio. Digital recordings of performances could be included
- the Course Assessment consists of a Question Paper (exam with listening component) and a Performance (an 8 minute programme of music with two instruments or instrument and voice).

# Summary of Physical Education National 5

**2**  
UNITS  
+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**PERFORMANCE SKILLS**  
**FACTORS IMPACTING ON PERFORMANCE**  
**PERFORMANCE AND PORTFOLIO**



## What skills will be developed?

- effective and safe performance in a comprehensive range of physical activities
- understanding impacts on performance (wellbeing factors)
- positive attitudes, fitness, self-reliance and self-management
- recording, monitoring and evaluating to enhance performance
- researching to develop knowledge, understanding and skills
- decision-making and problem-solving
- selecting, applying and adapting skills
- planning, preparing and organisational skills
- carrying out roles and responsibilities
- demonstrating appropriate etiquette and following rules and guidelines
- communication and interpersonal skills to build positive relationships
- demonstrating initiative and strategic skills
- confidence and creativity
- analysis and evaluation

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning to develop and consolidate skills, improve fitness and enhance wellbeing
- a blend of classroom approaches including experiential, practical learning
- collaborative learning: learning from each other, in partnership and in teams as well as through whole class learning
- space for personalisation and choice: learners choose their specialism for the Course Assessment Assignment (Performance) and select their activities for their Portfolio
- applying learning
- embedding literacy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (the Performance and the Portfolio)
- Units are assessed by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be videos of performance, peer and self-reflection, graphic organisers, cause and effect, Q charts, oral evidence through question/answer sessions, use of ICT
- the Course Assessment consists of the Performance and the Portfolio which will be marked according to SQA guidance and instructions and graded A to D.

# Summary of Physics National 5

**PHYSICS**  
SCIENCE

**Nat 5**

**3**

**ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY**

**WAVES AND RADIATION**

**UNITS**

**DYNAMICS AND SPACE**

+

**COURSE  
ASSESSMENT**

**PHYSICS ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER**

## What skills will be developed?

- in-depth knowledge and understanding of physics
- applying this knowledge and understanding to new situations
- an understanding of the role of physics in scientific issues and relevant applications of physics in society and the environment
- scientific inquiry, investigative, analytical and evaluative thinking skills in physics and real life contexts
- the ability to use technology, equipment and materials
- problem-solving skills and creativity in a physics context
- extended scientific literacy, in everyday contexts, to communicate ideas and issues
- an insight into the underlying nature of our world and its place in the universe
- a deeper understanding of the processes behind scientific advances
- information-handling skills
- drawing valid conclusions and formulating hypotheses

## What will be experienced during the course?

- active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, making independent decisions, using feedback
- a blend of classroom approaches including challenging experimental, practical and investigative approaches, whole class discussions and interactive teaching
- collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities; intercurricular learning with other sciences, mathematics, technologies, religious and moral education; with organisations such as STEMNET
- space for personalisation and choice: learners can choose what to observe or measure and their methodology; learners will choose the topic for their Assignment
- applying learning
- embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching, selecting, summarising and presenting information using a range of sources; evaluating; recording and interpreting more complex data; using technology and data loggers.

## Assessment

- to gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (the Assignment and the Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or ‘evidence of learning’) will ensure that learners can apply knowledge and understanding and scientific skills to an experiment or practical investigation. This may be evidenced in a portfolio of work
- the Course Assessment will consist of an Assignment and a two-part Question Paper (both are marked by the SQA). For the Assignment, learners will research a topical issue, then write it up. The Course Assessment is graded A to D.