

ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION: NATIONAL 5

ENTRY LEVEL:

Entry to the National 5 course is based on pupil performance against CfE level targets in S3, and is open to S5 pupils who have achieved a strong pass at National 4 level in S4, or to pupils who have attained a D at National 5 in S4.

Why English?

Being able to read and listen effectively, and to speak and write in clear English is the key to success in many aspects of life and work. Skills in English are important in many school / college subjects and essential in many occupations. This course provides you with purposeful reading, writing, talking and listening. These activities enable you to improve and extend your communication skills and also help you to enjoy the English language in prose, poetry and drama and media contexts.

Course Outline

The course consists of the following units:

English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 5)

The purpose of this unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop listening and reading skills in familiar contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to understand, analyse and evaluate detailed language, through the study of a range of texts in language, literature and media contexts. At least one Scottish text should be studied.

English: Creation and Production (National 5)

The purpose of this unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop talking and writing skills in familiar contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to create and produce detailed language in both written and oral form.

Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all the Units as well as the Course Assessment.

Assessment will be based on a combination of internal and external assessment. An A, B or C or D will denote the final level of award.

The external examination will consist of two Components: Exam and Portfolio Writing.

Component 1 – Exam Papers: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation & Critical Reading.

The purpose of these question papers is to assess learners' application of their reading and writing skills in a familiar but challenging context.

Section 1: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (30% of total marks)

Applying reading skills in understanding, analysis and evaluation to one unseen text.

Section 2: Critical Reading (40% of total marks)

These 40 marks will be awarded for applying critical reading, knowledge and understanding in addressing two tasks which are based on literary texts.

Part 1 Scottish Texts (20%)

Learners will apply their understanding, analysis and evaluation skills based on previously studied Scottish texts by answering questions on one Scottish text chosen from a list of specified texts covering the genres of drama, prose and poetry. These texts will be both contemporary and pre-20th century and the list will be refreshed as required.

Part 2 Critical Essay (20%)

Learners will apply their understanding, analysis and evaluation skills to previously studied texts from the following contexts: drama, prose, poetry, film and TV drama, or language, by writing one critical essay.

Component 2 – Portfolio writing (30% of the total marks)

The purpose of this portfolio is to provide evidence of the learner's writing for two different purposes.

Progression

Successful completion of this course at grade C or above may lead to English Higher.