

HIGHER ENGLISH

Entry requirements

Students with an A, B or C at National 5 level.

Why Higher English?

Being competent in English is the key to success in many aspects of life and work. Skills in English language and communication are important in many school, college and university courses and essential in many occupations. A qualification in English is often required for entry to further and higher education. This course aims to improve and extend your experience of English literature in prose, poetry and drama.

This Course is made up of two mandatory Units which build on those in National 5 English. The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their listening, talking, reading and writing skills in order to understand and use language. The two Units include the four language skills of listening, talking, reading and writing.

English: Analysis and Evaluation (Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop listening and reading skills in the contexts of literature, language and media. Learners develop the skills needed to understand, analyse and evaluate detailed and complex texts.

English: Creation and Production (Higher)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop talking and writing skills in a wide range of contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to create and produce detailed and complex texts in both written and oral forms.

Course Assessment is on a Pass / Fail basis for Unit Assessments. Pupils must pass both units in order to be able to gain a Course Award.

Course Awards are graded A – D following external course assessment.

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 (RUAE)

30% will be awarded for addressing the challenge of applying reading skills, understanding, analysis and evaluation to two non-fiction texts. Assessment tasks will involve learners answering questions to show their understanding, analysis and evaluation of non-fiction texts, and summarising information for a purpose.

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.

The portfolio is externally assessed, is worth 30% of the total mark, and will comprise two written texts that address creative and discursive writing.

Progression

Success at Higher English (CfE) can lead to presentation at Advanced Higher (CfE).