

National 5 Course structure

This Course is made up of two mandatory Units. 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. The structure of the Units enables learners to focus on the skills required to understand and use language, and to integrate listening, talking, reading and writing skills across the Units. Each Unit also offers opportunities for learners to focus on particular skills.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

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 the contexts of literature, language and media. Learners develop the skills needed to understand, analyse and evaluate detailed texts. The texts studied must include Scottish texts.

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 a range of contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to create and produce detailed texts in both written and oral forms.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award. The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

The Course assessment - the exam

The Course assessment will consist of two Components, a question paper titled 'Reading' and a portfolio titled 'Writing'. The question paper will have two Sections. The portfolio will have one Section.

Component 1 — question paper: reading

The purpose of this question paper is to assess learners' application of their reading skills in a familiar but challenging context, and to provide the challenge of questions and other tasks to be accomplished in a limited amount of time.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- apply their reading skills in the understanding, analysis and evaluation of texts
- apply their critical reading skills and their knowledge of appropriate literary context, forms and genres

The question paper will have 70 marks (70% of the total mark).

This question paper has two Sections.

Section 1, titled 'Reading for Understanding, Analysis, and Evaluation' will have 30 marks.

These 30 marks will be awarded for addressing the challenge of applying reading skills in understanding, analysis and evaluation to one non-fiction text. Assessment will involve learners answering questions to show these reading skills and completing a task that involves inference making and summarising.

Section 2, titled 'Critical Reading' will have 40 marks.

This Section has two Parts.

These 40 marks will be awarded for applying critical reading, knowledge and understanding.

Part 1

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.

Part 2

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.

In each part, learners must cover a different genre and cannot use the same text twice.

Twenty marks will be awarded for each of the two tasks addressed.

Component 2 — portfolio: writing

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

This portfolio will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- develop their skills in writing in different genres
- develop their skills in writing for a range of purposes and audiences

The portfolio will have 30 marks (30% of the total mark).

This portfolio has one Section.

The portfolio will comprise two written texts that address the main language purposes, namely creative and discursive writing.

Fifteen marks will be awarded for each writing piece chosen for the portfolio.