

Route Map through Assessment

Course: English

Level: National 5

This document is intended to assist teachers in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence.

The vision for the new national qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

This route map aims to signpost all the relevant material that is available to support your subject. Your professional judgement is vital and the documents listed below are intended to support you in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess candidates.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for English, and this is a good starting point as it provides support to help develop learning and teaching approaches that take forward the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence through English National 5.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/e/nqresource_tcm4741302.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalqualifications&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-740884-64&class=l1+d158233

English National 5 course content

Most of the SQA information on the new national qualifications in English can be found at:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45672.html>.

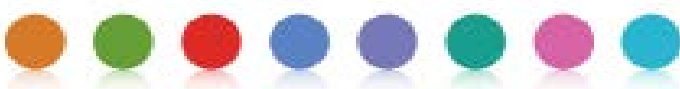
All of the information relating specifically to National 5 can be found at:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47410.html>. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcement section of this page.

Throughout this course, learners will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and talking in order to understand and use **detailed** language. The course consists of two units: Analysis and Evaluation, which develops the receptive skills of reading and listening, and Creation and Production, which develops the productive skills of writing and talking. Learners must pass both units and the course assessment.

Course assessment comprises a Writing Portfolio and a Question Paper.

During the course learners will read and listen to a range of detailed texts in order to understand, analyse and evaluate them as appropriate to purpose and audience, in the contexts of literature, language and media. **This study must include one of the mandatory Scottish set texts.** The list of options for the Scottish texts can be found at http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ScottishtextlistSQPN5.pdf. Learners will also create and produce detailed texts in talking and writing, as appropriate to purpose and audience in a range of contexts.



Learning and teaching resources designed for English National 5, including materials for each of the set Scottish texts, can be found at

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/english/coursematerials.asp> (Glow username and password required)

Internal assessment

The course comprises two mandatory units:

English: Analysis and Evaluation: http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_English_AnalysisandEvaluation.pdf

English: Creation and Production:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_English_CreationandProduction.pdf

Learners must pass both the course assessment and the mandatory units to gain the full course award. A number of unit assessment support packs (UASPs) have been created by SQA which outline a variety of tools that can be used to gather evidence across each of the outcomes and assessment standards in each unit. Some UASPs suggest a unit-by-unit approach while others suggest a combined approach. The latter, in particular, are designed to lessen the assessment burden on learners and staff by providing learners with the opportunity to generate evidence for multiple assessment standards across both units within one assessment activity.

UASPs may be adapted by centres in order to better fit the needs of their learners. This can be done without prior SQA verification provided that similar question types are used and the same assessment standards are applied. Units are assessed on a pass/fail basis. **A pass is not based on minimum score and assessment questions are not assigned a set number of marks.** Instead, assessors will exercise their professional judgement about whether learners have met each assessment standard. This approach is particularly significant in the assessment of reading and listening. Staff should also note that the assessment of reading must be based on a learner's reading of an unseen text. Critical essays completed as part of a class literature study cannot, therefore, be accepted as evidence of achieving assessment standards in reading. When assessing listening, assessment judgements must be based on the learner's ability to examine the features of spoken language. A learner's analysis of media techniques will not serve as evidence of their listening abilities. Judging evidence tables are built in to UASPs in order to support staff and centres as they make assessment decisions.

Evidence of learners' achievement might also arise naturally from day-to-day learning activities. A learner may, for example, meet some of the assessment standards for talking and/or listening during a group discussion activity.

Unlike at National 4, there is no requirement for learners to pass a Literacy unit at National 5. A stand-alone National 5 Literacy Unit is available and many of its assessment standards may be achieved via successful completion of the Analysis and Evaluation and Creation and Production units at National 5. Further information about the Literacy Unit (National 5) can be found at:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Literacy.pdf.

Staff may also refer to the National 5 Literacy Bridging Pack (Literacy Unit Assessment Support Package 4) for guidance on how to collate evidence for learners who wish to be certificated for the stand-alone National 5 Literacy unit.

Staff should note that learners may not access a human reader and scribe when being assessed for reading and writing as part of the National 5 Literacy unit. They may, however, be supported by appropriate ICT and other assistive technologies.

Course assessment

Question papers

The course assessment at National 5 comprises two question papers and a Writing Portfolio. The first question paper **Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation**, is worth a total of 30 marks. Learners will apply the reading skills they have developed during the course, responding to one, unseen, detailed, non-fiction text. Learners will have to answer questions that show they understand the writer's ideas and that they can analyse and evaluate the language used by the writer to convey those ideas. Learners have 60 minutes to complete the assessment.

The SQA specimen question paper for Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation can be accessed via the following link: http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/EnglishReadingforAnalysisandEvaluationSQPN5.pdf.

The second question paper, **Critical Reading**, comprises two sections; each section is worth 20 marks. The assessment will last 90 minutes.

In section 1, learners will demonstrate their knowledge and skills in relation to the Scottish set text that they have studied. Learners must select the extract and accompanying questions for the text or author that they have studied. If, for example, learners have studied the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy, they would locate the Duffy poem selected for the paper and answer the accompanying questions; if learners have studied *The Testament of Gideon Mack* they would locate the extract from that novel and answer the accompanying questions. It should be noted that in the case of poetry and short stories **learners should have had the opportunity to study all the poems or short stories specified for the writer/poet** as they may be required to use their knowledge of all the selected texts in this section of the course assessment.

In section two learners are required to write a critical essay drawing on their knowledge of one of the texts studied during the course. A range of essay questions will be provided, organised by genre (drama, prose, poetry, language, and film and television drama). Learners may not respond using the Scottish set text they have used to answer Section 1.

In section 2, learners may not use another text of the same genre as the Scottish text they used to answer section 1.

If they have studied more than one of the Scottish set texts they may use a second Scottish text in section 2 but only if it is of a different genre to the one used to respond to section 1.

The SQA specimen question paper for Critical Reading can be found by following this link:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/EnglishCriticalReadingSQPN5.pdf.

The SQA course assessment specification provides further information on course assessment:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_Languages_English.pdf.

Portfolio of writing

Learners will select two pieces of writing for external assessment that will evidence their ability to write for different purposes and audiences. One of the pieces will be broadly discursive and the other broadly creative. The portfolio will be sent to SQA for external assessment. 15 marks are available for each written piece.

Verification

The verification process is intended to be supportive to staff.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a school in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across schools.

Quality Assurance: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html>

The following links will also support staff when preparing evidence for verification purposes including prior verification, as well as internal and external verification:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf

http://www/sqa/org/uk/sqa/files_cccEvidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

http://sqa/org/uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf

Other useful websites

<https://bit.ly/englishplhome>. (Glow username and password required).

Education Scotland's online professional learning community for English. Staff across Scotland share resources and ideas here for English from the Broad General Education through to Advanced Higher:

<https://bit.ly/lithome>. (Glow username and password required).

Education Scotland's online professional learning community for literacy. Staff across Scotland share resources and ideas here for literacy from the Broad General Education through to National 5.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zmcrd2p>.

The BBC's Knowledge and Learning Beta site for English National 5: