

# English Glossary

## SQA: Scottish Qualifications Authority

*This is the qualifications body. They set exams, mark them and provide certification.*

## Critical Essay

*This is a written response to a text which is studied in class. It examines the writer's techniques in response to a set task/ question.*

## Textual Analysis

*This is when your child is presented with an extract from the Scottish text which they will have studied in class and they are required to answer a range of questions about this extract.*

## Personal/ Reflective Writing

*This is a piece of writing which is about a personal experience. It is mainly focussed on the writer's thoughts, feelings and reactions to the experience. It should contain self-reflection where the writer examines the lessons learned and personal insights gained from the experience.*

## Creative Writing

*This is a piece of imaginative writing. This can be either: a drama, series of poems or a short story.*

## Persuasive Writing

*This is a piece of writing which is on a current controversial topic. The writer will take a stance on the topic and attempts, through a variety of techniques, to persuade the reader that their views on the topic are correct.*

## Argumentative Writing

*This is a piece of writing which is on a current controversial topic. The writer will examine the arguments surrounding the topic and maintain a neutral stance.*

## Report Writing

*This is a factual piece of writing on a topic. This should draw on a range of sources and present information on the topic in a clear, structured and logical way.*

## Technical Accuracy

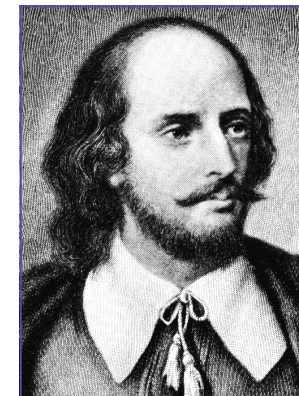
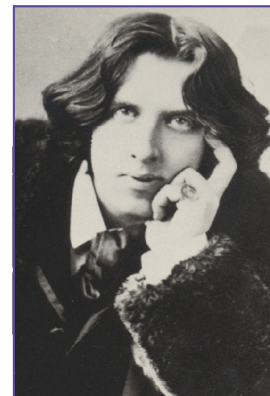
*This refers to accuracy in writing in terms of: spelling, grammar, punctuation and paragraphing.*



# National 5 English

## Parent Guide:

## *Supporting your Child in the Senior Phase*



## National 5 English

### Aims of the Course:

*This course will help your child to develop their skills in the areas of reading, writing, talking and listening – all important skills for learning, life and work.*

### Qualifications:

*Successful completion of the course, units and exam will mean that your child will achieve an A-D grade in 'National 5 English'. Successful completion of the Units will also mean that your child will receive a 'National 5 Literacy' qualification.*

### Pathways: Employment or Further Study

*An English course will always aim to develop a learner's communication skills (reading, writing, talking and listening). These skills are obviously seen to be essential by all employers and many (almost all) university and college courses require a qualification in English.*

### How the Course is Structured:

*The course is made up of two units and a final exam paper and portfolio. The Units will be assessed as either pass or fail by the class teacher and the exam and portfolio will be marked and graded A-D by the SQA.*

Unit 1	Unit 2	Exam Paper 1	Exam Paper 2	Portfolio
<b>Reading for Analysis and Evaluation:</b> To pass this unit, learners have to: <i>read</i> a written text and answer a range of questions AND <i>listen</i> to a spoken text and answer a range of questions.	<b>Creation and Production:</b> To pass this unit, learners have to: write an essay (500 words minimum) and complete a solo talk or group discussion.	<b>Reading for understanding, analysis and evaluation:</b> This paper involves reading a non-fiction passage (from a newspaper) and answering questions. (30 marks)	<b>Critical Essay and Textual Analysis:</b> Part one of this paper involves writing a critical essay on a text your child will have studied in class (20 marks). Part two involves your child answering a range of questions on an extract of a Scottish text which your child will have studied in class. (20 marks)	<b>The Portfolio</b> is made up of 2 pieces of writing. One will be 'Discursive' and the other 'Creative'. This will be sent away to the SQA. (30 marks)

### What your child will be doing in class:

- *Reading and listening to a range of literature (including at least one Scottish text)*
- *Reading and listening to a range of non-fiction texts*
- *Analysing texts that they have read or have listened to*
- *Writing a range of essays including: creative, personal, discursive and critical essays*
- *Presenting to classmates on a variety of topics, both individually and as part of a group*

### Commonly Asked Questions:

- **Q: What is the equivalent of a National 5 in the old exam system?**  
**A: A pass at National 5 would be the equivalent of a Standard Grade Credit Grade 2 or Intermediate 2 Grade C**
- **Q: What will my child have to achieve to be able sit Higher (National 6) in S5?**  
**A: We would expect your child to achieve an A-C grade to be able to sit Higher the next year**
- **Q: What will happen if they are struggling with the course?**  
**A: If your child is struggling with the course and it looks unlikely that they will be able to pass the exam then we may ask them to sit National 4 instead. This decision will be made at Christmas.**
- **Q: What will happen if my child fails the exam?**  
**A: If your child fails the exam and they have passed the Added Value Unit and Literacy Unit in National 4 then they will automatically achieve a National 4. They will be able to re-sit National 5 the next year**

### How You Can Help...

- *Provide access to quality newspapers and watch the News and Question Time together, discuss current affairs - this will help with generating ideas for folio writing*
- *Ensure that they re-read their texts at night*
- *Talk to them about the texts they are studying in class, ask them to summarise the main events, tell you about the characters/themes/settings*
- *Ask them to recite quotations from their text - it's important that they memorise quotations as they won't have access to them in the final exam*
- *Ask to see their notes/jotters - ensure that they have been making their own notes about their texts*
- *Allow them to research their texts online to find secondary criticism and other responses*
- *Encourage them to take a note of websites that they visit/books they read in preparation for their folio essays - it is crucial that they include a bibliography to avoid plagiarism*
- *Ask to see their writing. Proofread it for any technical errors. Ensure they have included a bibliography and word count in any discursive writing*
- *Ask them to make a Study Timetable and make sure that they stick to it*
- *Ask to see their work and the feedback that teachers give*
- *Allow them to access study guides and revision guides online*
- *Many revision guides and study guides have been published - buy these if you wish. Please check the school website for a list of these*
- *Clear their room of any distractions while they are studying: phones, games consoles, TVs*
- *Encourage them to attend Supported Study in school*
- *Encourage use of the SQA Website (especially the candidate guides)*
- *Make access to a dictionary and thesaurus available (these can also be accessed online)*