

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 you are presented with an extract from the Scottish text which you studied in class and you have 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 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.

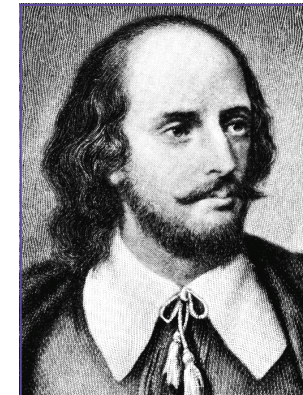
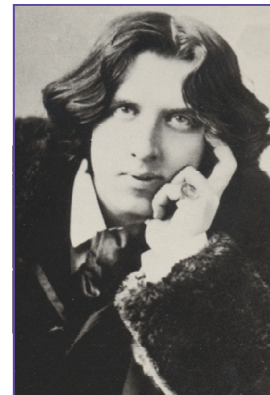
Technical Accuracy

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



National 5 English

Pupil Guide



Welcome to National 5 English

Aims of the Course:

This course will help you to develop your 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 you will achieve an A-D grade in 'National 5 English'. Successful completion of the Units will also mean that you will receive a 'National 5 Literacy' qualification.

Pathways: Employment or Further Study

An English course will always aim to develop your communication skills (reading, writing, talking and listening). These skills are 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 your teacher and your exam and portfolio will be marked and graded A-D by the SQA.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Exam Paper 1	Exam Paper 2	Portfolio
Reading for Analysis and Evaluation: To pass this unit, you 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.	Creation and Production: To pass this unit, you have to: write an essay (500 words minimum) and complete a solo talk or group discussion.	Reading for understanding, analysis and evaluation: This paper involves reading a non-fiction passage and answering questions. (30 marks)	Critical Essay and Textual Analysis: Part one of this paper involves writing a critical essay on a text you will have studied in class (20 marks). Part two involves you answering a range of questions on a extract of a Scottish text which you will have studied in class. (20 marks)	Your Portfolio 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 you 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 you 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*

What we expect from you:

- *Excellent behaviour, time-keeping and attendance*
- *All homework and coursework deadlines met*
- *Attendance at supported study when it is offered*
- *High levels of organisation: tidy folders, neat jotters, filed notes, up-to-date diaries*
- *Independent revision at home, even when you have not been given 'formal' homework*
- *Enthusiasm and participation during class and the ability to work as part of team*
- *All work must be completed to a high standard, even pieces that are not assessed*
- *Respect for your teacher and the willingness to follow advice and instruction*
- *Most importantly: commitment to the course, dedication and the determination to succeed.*

Top Tips for Success at National 5:

- *Read as much as possible (particularly from quality journalism)*
- *Revise at home as much as possible*
- *Keep a notes jotter or notes book with lots of points/quotations from your texts*
- *Aim to know your texts really well by re-reading them at home*
- *Research and find out as much as your can about your texts*
- *Use the SQA website for advice and support*
- *Word process your folio pieces and save all your work on a pen drive*
- *Writing is a process: proof-read, edit and redraft your folio pieces throughout the year*
- *Think about buying your own copy of the texts that you are studying in class– this will mean that you can annotate and highlight important parts of the text.*

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 would I have to get to sit Higher in S5?**
A: We would expect you to achieve an A-C grade to be able to sit Higher the next year
- **Q: What will happen if I'm struggling with the course?**
A: If you are struggling with the course and it looks unlikely that you will be able to pass the exam then we may ask you to sit National 4 instead.
- **Q: What will happen if I fail the exam?**
A: If you fail the exam and you have passed the Added Value and Literacy Unit in National 4 then you will automatically achieve a National 4