



# Advanced Higher English — draft Course rationale and summary



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# Course rationale

## Background

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

## **Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles**

Advanced Higher English provides learners with the opportunity to develop complex language skills which are essential for learning, life and work; and to develop their ability to interpret complex literary forms and to produce sophisticated language.

Advanced Higher English fosters an appreciation, in depth, of complex language awareness, and of a wide range of literature and texts in different media. This enables learners to access their own cultural heritage and history, as well as the culture and history of others.

Learners have the opportunity to personalise their study; choices enable learners to encounter a wide range of different types of texts in different media and to produce sophisticated writing in chosen literary forms. Building on the four capacities, Advanced Higher English enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness, and be creative.

## **Purpose and aims of the Course**

The main purpose of the Course is to provide learners with the opportunity to apply analytical and evaluative skills to a wide range of texts of different genres. Learners develop the ability to analyse and evaluate literary texts and may also apply the skills to media texts. Learners develop sophisticated writing skills, responding to the way structure, form and meaning shape the overall meaning of texts.

The Course provides personalisation and choice for learners by allowing them to choose to develop skills in creative writing or analysing and evaluating literary or media texts.

The Course also develops the skill of critically responding to complex texts through extended writing. This provides learners with the opportunity to critically analyse sophisticated concepts using appropriate terminology.

The Course aims to provide opportunities for learners to develop the ability to:

- ◆ analyse and evaluate complex language
- ◆ apply analytical and evaluative skills across a wide range of literary texts
- ◆ apply sophisticated writing skills
- ◆ extend creative writing skills, or analytical and evaluative skills in literary or media contexts
- ◆ critically respond to complex texts through extended writing
- ◆ apply higher order thinking skills
- ◆ apply research and investigative skills for a range of purposes

- ◆ apply independent, individual interests to a chosen topic in either literature or media

Learners will apply knowledge and understanding of complex language in a wide range of contexts and use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments. The Course also develops high levels of analytical thinking and understanding of the impact of language.

## **Information about typical learners who may follow the Course**

The Course is appropriate for learners who wish to develop their understanding and use of complex language through a range of higher order skills. This Course develops learners' personalisation and choice appropriate to their personal and vocational needs and aspirations. Learners will encounter academic and personal challenges in the study of Advanced Higher English.

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, it may be beneficial for a learner to have the skills and knowledge required by Higher English and relevant component Units or equivalent qualifications.

The Course provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways.

Through the successful completion of this Course, important transferable skills are developed. These skills include: analysing and evaluating a range of complex literary texts, and developing an independence of thought while taking account of the opinions of others.

The ability to analyse and evaluate complex texts, and apply highly developed thinking and communication skills, is important in a number of professions and degree programmes. This Course can lead to:

- ◆ degree programmes in education, humanities, law, journalism, drama, media, social science and business
- ◆ careers in education, journalism, media, law, marketing, politics, commerce and industry

English Units and Courses are offered from SCQF level 2 to SCQF level 7.

This Course is recognised as an entry qualification to employment, training, and higher and further education. This Course also provides preparation for a diverse range of occupations and careers.

The Course is designed to be accessible. Units have been designed to take into account the needs of learners.

# Course summary

**Course title: English (Advanced Higher)**

**SCQF level 7 (32 SCQF credit points)**

## Course outline

### Mandatory Units

The Course comprises the following mandatory Units:

<b>English: Literary Studies (Advanced Higher)</b>	<b>(8 SCQF credit points)</b>
<b>English: Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)</b>	<b>(8 SCQF credit points)</b>

### Optional Units

The Course comprises the following optional Units:

<b>English: Textual Analysis (Advanced Higher)</b>	<b>(8 SCQF credit points)</b>
<b>English: Creative Writing (Advanced Higher)</b>	<b>(8 SCQF credit points)</b>

<b>Course assessment</b>	<b>(8 SCQF credit points)</b>
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This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

# Course structure and conditions of award

## Course structure

The Course is made up of two mandatory Units and one further Unit from two optional Units. The main purpose of the Course is to provide learners with the opportunity to apply analytical and evaluative skills to a wide range of texts of different genres. Learners interpret complex literary forms and produce sophisticated language and develop the skills outlined in the optional Units.

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

### Mandatory Units

#### **English: Literary Studies (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with opportunities to extend and refine their analysis and evaluation skills through the study of complex literary texts in a range of literary genres. Learners will develop the skill of critically responding in depth to complex texts and will have the opportunity to critically analyse sophisticated concepts using appropriate terminology.

#### **English: Specialist Study (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to extend their critical, investigative and analytical skills through the independent study of literature or media or some combination of these. Learners will choose a topic of interest and develop independent learning skills through investigating this topic. Learners will also develop organisational and presentational skills required in the production of a dissertation.

### Optional Units — one of the following:

#### **English: Textual Analysis (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with opportunities to develop interpretative, analytical and evaluative skills, knowledge of the various ways by which meaning is created, and understanding of critical concepts and approaches. Learners will apply these skills to a wide variety of either media or literary texts. Learners will develop knowledge of literary or media language in order to be able to respond critically to any given text.

#### **English: Creative Writing (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to extend and refine their writing skills through the production of a range of imaginative writing in different genres. Learners will use language creatively for a variety of purposes and in a variety of forms to extend and refine their awareness of themselves and of the world around them. Learners will develop knowledge of the various ways by which meaning is created and develop a range of skills necessary for the deployment of language to create effect.

## **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.

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# Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

## Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the Unit Specification.

They will be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units is provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

## Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)<sup>1</sup>. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course, as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge and application.

In the Advanced Higher English Course, added value will focus on challenge and application. These will be assessed by a [portfolio](#)<sup>2</sup> and a [question paper](#)<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html)

<sup>2</sup> See link above for definitions.

<sup>3</sup> See link above for definitions.