



English (National 4)

Draft National Course Specification



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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

Contents

Course outline	1
Mandatory Units	1
Recommended entry	1
Progression	2
Equality and inclusion	2
Rationale	3
Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles	3
Purpose and aims of the Course	4
Information about typical learners who might do the Course	4
Course structure and conditions of award	5
Course structure	5
Conditions of award	5
Skills and knowledge	6
Assessment	7
Unit assessment	7
Added Value Unit	8
Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work	9
Administrative information	10

Course outline

Course title:	English (National 4)
SCQF:	level 4 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code:	to be advised

Mandatory Units

English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 4)	6 SCQF credit points
English: Creation and Production (National 4)	6 SCQF credit points
Literacy (National 4)	6 SCQF credit points
Added Value Unit	
English: Assignment (National 4)	6 SCQF credit points

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for the assessment of added value in the Added Value Unit. Further information on this Unit is provided in the Assessment section.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills and knowledge required by the following or by equivalent experience and/or qualifications:

- ◆ English (Access 3) Course or relevant component Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ other SQA qualifications in English or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information please refer to the *Course Support Notes* and the *Course Assessment Specification*.

Rationale

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 and 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

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Learners' ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of their emotions, thinking, learning, and sense of personal identity.

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop skills in listening and talking, reading and writing, which are essential for learning, life and work; to develop their ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings, and respond to those of other people; and to use different media effectively for learning and communication.

The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to develop an understanding of how language works, and use language to communicate ideas and information in English; to use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments; and to develop critical literacy skills and personal, interpersonal and team working skills.

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to enhance their enjoyment and their understanding of their own and other cultures.

The Course fosters an appreciation of language awareness, and of a wide range of literature and texts. This enables learners to access their own cultural heritage and history, as well as the culture and history of others.

The Course enables learners to understand and use vocabulary, word patterns, text structures and style. Learners recognise, analyse and use language for a range of purposes. Through this Course, learners develop the ability to understand and use language in practical and relevant contexts.

Learners encounter a wide range of different types of texts in different media. Building on the four capacities, the Course enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness, and be creative. Learners develop an appreciation of Scotland's literary and linguistic heritage.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The main purpose of the Course is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop the skills of listening and talking, reading and writing in order to understand and use language.

As learners develop their literacy skills, they will be able to process information more easily, apply knowledge of language in practical and relevant contexts, and gain confidence to undertake new and more challenging tasks in a variety of situations.

The Course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills. In particular, the Course aims to enable learners to develop the ability to:

- ◆ listen and talk, read and write, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ understand, analyse and evaluate texts, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ create and produce texts, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ plan and research, integrating and applying language skills as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ apply knowledge of language

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

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

The Course provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a broad general education or in English qualifications at a lower SCQF level.

The Course is designed to be accessible. The Units are organised by the receptive (listening and reading) and productive (talking and writing) skills of language.

Progression from English (National 4) includes opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to:

- ◆ English (National 5)
- ◆ Literacy Unit (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Modern Apprenticeships
- ◆ National Certificates
- ◆ further education

and ultimately, for some, to employment.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

This Course is made up of four mandatory Units. The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their listening and talking, reading and writing skills in order to understand and use language. The four Units, taken together, include the four language skills of listening and 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 and 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 variety of ways.

English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 4)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop listening and reading skills in familiar contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to understand, analyse and evaluate simple but detailed language, through the study of straightforward texts in language, literature and media contexts. At least one Scottish text should be studied.

English: Creation and Production (National 4)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop talking and writing skills in familiar contexts. Learners develop the skills needed to create and produce simple but detailed language in both written and oral form.

Literacy (National 4)

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop listening and talking, reading and writing skills in a variety of familiar forms relevant for learning, life and work. All four skills will be developed using straightforward texts which are likely to be functional/informational. Learners will develop their skills to read, listen to and understand straightforward texts. Learners will develop the ability to express simple but detailed information and ideas through talk and in writing which is technically accurate.

Added Value Unit: English: Assignment (National 4)

The purpose of this Added Value Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to apply and integrate their language skills in English. English: Assignment enables learners to plan and research a chosen topic in a familiar context, using their reading and writing skills, in order to develop their own skills and personal interests in language, literature or media. English: Assignment provides learners with the opportunity to present their findings using their listening and talking skills.

Conditions of award

To achieve the English (National 4) Course, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 4 Courses are not graded.

Skills and knowledge

Full skills and knowledge for the Course will be given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course includes:

- ◆ listening and talking, reading and writing skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar contexts
- ◆ understanding, analysing and evaluating straightforward texts, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar contexts
- ◆ creating and producing straightforward texts, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar contexts, in order to organise and use vocabulary, word patterns, text structures and style
- ◆ knowledge of simple but detailed language in listening and talking, reading and writing

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Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provide 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 can 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 judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows.

English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 4)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their listening and reading skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience in familiar contexts, through the study of straightforward texts in language, literature and media. Learners will provide evidence of their knowledge of simple but detailed language, and their analysis and evaluation skills.

English: Creation and Production (National 4)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their talking and writing skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience, in familiar contexts. Learners will demonstrate basic knowledge required to create and produce simple but detailed texts. Learners will be required to demonstrate knowledge of basic technical accuracy in the creation of texts.

Literacy (National 4)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their listening and talking, reading and writing skills in a variety of familiar forms relevant for learning, life and work. All four skills will be demonstrated using straightforward texts which are word-based and set in a functional/informational context. Learners will demonstrate their ability to read, listen to and understand straightforward texts. Learners will demonstrate their ability to express simple but detailed information and ideas through talk and in writing which demonstrates knowledge of basic technical accuracy.

Added Value Unit

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. At National 4, added value will be assessed in the Unit English: Assignment, which is the Added Value Unit. The Added Value Unit will 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 this Course, the Added Value Unit will focus on challenge and application.

Learners will be required to provide evidence of their ability to apply and integrate their language skills in English. Learners will demonstrate their ability to plan and research a chosen topic in a familiar context, using their reading and writing skills. Learners will present their findings, providing evidence of their listening and talking skills.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

It is expected that learners will also develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that are likely to be appropriate for this Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

- 1.1 Reading
- 1.2 Writing
- 1.3 Listening and talking

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

- 4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

- 5.3 Applying
- 5.4 Analysing and evaluating

Amplification of these is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: April 2011 (version 1.0)

Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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