

ENQ 31611
Holy Cross High School
[REDACTED]

Hello

I have had a look at the SQA timetable for 2025 and have real concerns about the Politics and Business Management exam being on the same day.
We have a number of pupils who do both and one in particular who has ASD and ADHD and has extra time.
Both are lengthy papers

He could be in Politics for 3hrs and 45 mins, then Business for over 3 hours as well.

I don't think he will be able to sustain an optimal level of concentration for those 7 hours.

Is there anything that can be done?

ENQ31448
Our Lady's High School
[REDACTED]

Just a few points regarding the 2025 Exam Diet.

French is timetabled for the holiday Friday 23 May. This means we need Modern Languages staff to come in to school so we have someone able to speak French in case the CD does not work. Just wondered if a non CD subject would be better on that day.

We also noticed that N5 Computing and N5 Applications of Maths are on the same day and we will have pupils doing both. H Politics is on the same day as H Business Management, and we will have pupils doing both. So not coincident exams but a heavy load for some pupils.

ENQ31450
Strathaven Academy
[REDACTED]

SQA exam timetable 2025 The French exams are on Friday, 23rd May, which is a holiday in our local authority and, I suspect, in many parts of Scotland. We may struggle to run this exam effectively as teachers may not be available. French teachers are required to be in the exam hall to operate machinery and in case of equipment malfunction.

ENQ31607
Carlisle High School

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Hope you are well and have had a good summer.

As you will be aware, the 2025 exam timetable was published via connect yesterday. It's good to see that the maths and apps of maths exams are spread over different days which will certainly make it easier to manage logistically in schools.

The concern I have relates to Higher English and N5 and Higher Psychology taking place on the same day. Given both these qualifications are very much a literacy based subject, it will be exceptionally demanding on any candidates who have to sit both these on the same day. Some of our AAA candidates who do both and have extra time may end up sitting exams from 0900 – 1645 except for the 30 min break between the two English papers and the hour before the Psychology exam. I am not sure that this is fair on any candidate regardless of whether they have an AAA or not. I would also have to apply for permission to delay the start of the afternoon paper as it would be beyond the 30 minute tolerance. While I appreciate what's involved in putting the exam timetable together, scheduling these two exams for the same day is far from ideal.

Are you able to raise this concern with the exam timetable team to see if anything can be done for this clash?

ENQ31529
Dunbar Grammar

████████████████████

Hi,
I've had a number of pupils at my door today asking about the exam diet and already raising concerns. I was hoping to share these with you, and to see what we could do.

One individual will have four exams in three successive days (Modern Studies, Philosophy, Politics, and Business). A number of individuals also have three in three days (Modern Studies, Philosophy, and Politics).

I appreciate there will never be an exam diet that suits every candidate perfectly, but there seems to be several similar subjects group together over consecutive days. Is there any way the SQA would consider adapting the timetable for this coming diet?

ENQ31581
Cliftonhall High School
[REDACTED]

Hi all,

After seeing the exam timetable I am extremely concerned and shocked to see English on the same day as Psychology. This has clearly massive implications for our subject never mind the wellbeing of pupils sitting two subjects that require huge amounts of writing. Have they considered pupils that get extra time? This seems almost impossible! Confused as to why they have added any other subject to an English day at all.

I feel I cannot be the only one very worried, I feel we as a collective cannot let our concerns go unheard. Do we know the best person to contact at sqa?

Thanks,

ENQ31616
Hyndland Secondary School
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I have received feedback from my colleagues on the Exam Timetable for 2025:

- N5 Maths, Physics, Applications of Maths & Computing are across 3 days with Applications and Computing on the same day.
- Higher Politics & Higher Business Management are on the same day.
- Higher Media & Higher Geography on the same day.
- Nat 5 French & Dance are on the same day.

We will have quite a number of young people sitting 2 exams on the same day and for young people entitled to extra time, this will result in a very long day indeed.

I do appreciate that there has to be some instances of 2 exams on the same day but I feel that the subjects chosen in the 2025 Exam Diet are pairs of subjects which will form a career pathway for many and therefore will impact significant numbers of candidates. Typically, we run a series of Masterclasses for young people prior to exams but I am not sure how we could accommodate this in the case of STEM subjects.

I realise that it is perhaps too late to make any further changes for this session but wanted to raise a concern never the less.

ENQ31646

Hyndland Secondary School
[REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED] I hope you are well!

Apologies, as I appreciate this is not something that would be your remit, but I wonder if you can advise if there's any way to raise this concern.

The exam schedule for 2025 seems a tad unfair for STEM students, and in particular computing science:

- Wednesday 14th - Mathematics
- Thursday 15th - Physics
- Friday 16th - Applications of Mathematics and Computing on the same day - will affect a fair number of pupils for sure

It's a natural thing to have tight schedules of exams, but this does seem to be sub-optimal - and with computing being at the end of a chain of exams it would seem to disproportionately negatively affect those candidates - the vast majority of them will do maths and a great many will also do physics.

Any thoughts would be appreciated.

ENQ31653

Castlebrae School
[REDACTED]

Morning

I'd like to raise concern over Higher Psychology being scheduled on the same day (7/5/25 afternoon) after the Higher English exam. They are both in the first full week and are very literary, content heavy and writing intensive.

As a centre we are concerned that Higher Psychology students would be penalised by this, and understandably may not perform as well, having to write all day. The level of revision and retention of information required to meet these two higher commitments in the same day might also penalise our learners. In addition, many of our learners will have AAA including extra time which will reduce the amount of time they have between exams.

I would appreciate if someone would respond to our concerns.

Some, identifying tables of English, and Dowlahs on 9th May. *“I’m imagining that this will have*

Same day timetabling of Practical Woodwork and Design and Manufacture - "These two

Can you please respond to [REDACTED] feedback/questions about movement within the

PS The recent response re. English and Psychology sent to Clifton Hall School was really

The next published CCA exam timetable for 2025 shows that Practical Woodwork in wood

This is a real cause for concern as there may be students who are sitting both and have only

ENQ31662
Drummond High School

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Afternoon ████████ hope you are well.

Just to say I know you were going to contact Exceptional Circumstances about the ESOL exam but I haven't heard anything from them yet.

Also, we have a number of candidates who are down to do ESOL and Cantonese Higher on the same day. Appreciate that we can start exams earlier but it is going to make for a very long day for them. Just wondered if you could raise it.

ENQ31694
Bishopbriggs Academy

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We were discussing the SQA timetable for 2025 last night and the French exams are due to take place on Friday 23 May 2025. For many schools this is a holiday and part of the bank holiday weekend. Whilst I appreciate exams can still run on holidays, I was just wondering if this had been considered in advance? We have a number of candidates for whom additional arrangements are put in place and when the exam takes place on a holiday, this has wider implications for staffing. I know not all local authorities have the same holidays, but there are a number that will be affected in this way- East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow certainly are. Is there any chance of the French exam date changing? Apparently this has happened in the past for other subjects when exams have been due to take place on holidays.

ENQ31707
Campbeltown Grammar School

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I am wishing to highlight a concern about the SQA exam diet for 2025 7th May - Higher English is timetabled from 09:00-12:30 and then the Higher Psychology exam is due to start at 13:30-15:00. There is a clash of times for the exams for any students on the Higher Childcare and Development and Higher Psychology courses ? alongside our concerns as above with the Higher English. 12th May ? Higher Maths exam (09:00-12:15) and the Higher Sociology exam (13:30-16:10). We have serious concerns on this excessive exam loading for these students and the impact it will have on their overall performance, but also that this timetable will create a significant barrier to student with AAR requirements. We have one student who does Higher English, Psychology, Childcare and PE - 3 of these exams are on the same day[2 at the same time] and the other the following morning. Is there anyway this situation could be looked at ?

ENQ31733
North Berwick High School

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██████████ wanted me to highlight the issues with English and Psychology being on the same day. They will have 50 candidates doing both exams, with a heavy AA overhead (some being extra times and separate accommodation requirements). Extra time can mean candidates have little time between the exams, spending a lot of time in exams in one day, and invigilators also need breaks. There are other days when there are less attended exams – could we make a change in this case.

ENQ31774
St Margaret's (Aberdeen)

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Good morning,
A parent has brought to my attention that Higher Drama and Higher German are timetabled for the same afternoon, her daughter takes both these exams. I have explained that this occurs sometimes and arrangements will be put in place to allow both exams to go ahead on the same day but she has asked me to contact you to see if the exam timetable can be amended to take this into account. Please do let me know if there is anything that can be done.

I would also like to note that we have a number of candidates who will be sitting National 5 Maths, Physics and Computing Science, which are on consecutive days. There is a similar situation with Higher Maths, Physics and Computing Science which are all in the same week. Our Head of Modern Languages has highlighted to me that both National 5 Spanish and French are in the same week. I fully understand the timetable is very complex and there is no perfect situation to suit all candidates but the timings of these exams is unfortunate and could have, in particular, an impact on those with specific assessment arrangements.

I look forward to hearing from you in early 2025 with further information regarding the coincident exams.

ENQ31787
Lasswade High School

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Hi,
Can you respond to the feedback below from ██████████ and copy me in - thanks. They want to highlight two issues about the exam timetable – having English and Psychology on the same day (or Higher English with anything else on one day). They also have a candidate that is sitting Childcare, so they have 3 exams on that day. They have experienced co-incidents previously, but 3 exams on one day is new to them, and is very challenging.

ENQ31900
Douglas Academy

██████ wanted to mention that having a modern language exam (Italian last year, French this year) on the holiday weekend is problematic. This requires staff (native speaker) to stay during a holiday.

ENQ31901
Turnbull High School

██████ mentioned during the East Dunbartonshire SQAC meeting that she doesn't think ESOL should be on the same day as another modern language.

ENQ31919
Mary Erskine School

Hello. ████████████████████ at The Mary Erskine School has been in touch with some feedback re. the timetabling of Latin exams (see below):

"As raised in previous years – why are the Latin papers split over a whole day – Paper 1 am and Paper 2 pm? However, N5 Latin this year is all in the morning – is this an indication that Higher and Advanced Higher may follow?"

Can you please contact ████████ to acknowledge this feedback/respond to her question about the possibility of future timetabling of Latin exams in morning or afternoon rather than being split across the entire day. Many thanks!

Holy Cross High School

Many thanks for your reply.

I totally understand that the task of creating the timetable is enormous and will incur students with exams on the same day – we have always had that. But 2 long Highers seems avoidable.

The concern with SQA coordinators across my authority is that we assumed that is the exam diet started later it would have finished later.

If given the choice to start on the 22nd or the 28th and finish at the end of May we would all have gone for a 22nd April start.

We did express concerns about that start date due to proximity to coming back after Easter, but candidate exam experience has been the priority and we would all have gone for the 22nd. Were local authorities consulted on the shortening of the exam diet?

I really don't want to sound like I am complaining. The SQA have always been a great support to me when I have had any queries about anything. I am just so concerned about this one pupil in particular and another few who have H PE and H Drama on the same day.

In last year's diet when pupils sat N5 Maths followed by N5 Drama many did not achieve the estimate we predicted in Drama and our departmental results were down.

I know the situation with markers and timing of marking has a massive impact on the end date. I would prefer next year if we started around the 22nd again.

ENQ31824

West Lothian Council

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Hi,

I don't know if there is a response to the below, but if so please get back to me directly - many thanks.

This point, raised by one of the schools, was also raised last year, relating to having English National 5 (or any large exam) the day after a bank holiday. Some of the invigilators could be away for the long weekend, and the school has to use school staff to fill in for the invigilators. Could large exams after bank holidays be avoided?

ENQ31849

East Dumbartonshire Council

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Hi ■■■■■

Co-incident SQA H ESOL, Mandarin, Cantonese Exams Wed 28 May

This has come in from one school. We will have more young people affected in this way across EDC once schools are aware of the implications. Can you raise this matter as a priority. How can ESOL be timetabled on the same day as language exams for speakers of other languages? While there are some candidates who will be non-native speakers, we cannot have young people being disadvantaged due to their ethnicity.

Can you raise this matter as a priority.

ENQ31850

East Renfrewshire Council

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SQA French exams are on Friday 23rd May 25; the holiday weekend. This has real implications for the listening papers, as SQACs need French speaking staff available in case the recording is faulty. Schools are concerned that they will find it very difficult to staff this exam.

ENQ31613

Glasgow City Council

Hi,

Hope you are well. I was wondering if this could be raised with the timetabling group? We have had a query from one of our schools to the [REDACTED] who chairs the Business Management curricular group in the city.

You will see from last year's data how many pupils are affected by this combination across the city. It is premature to get the exact number for presentations at the minute in GCC but it is a popular combination. I have my SQAC meeting on the 25th September and I am sure they will raise coincident exams at the meeting which I can collate and share at a later date. Any update or advice would be appreciated.

I have had a concern emailed to me regarding an SQA exam clash from our Business Faculty Head at Rosshall Academy. Please see below:

- *The Higher Business Management and Higher Politics exam are timetabled for the same day – 22 May 2025.*
- *I know a number of pupils are going to be affected. They will be sitting two intensive writing exams totalling 5 hours and 45 minutes on the same day (not taking into account pupils who have extra time in their alternatives assessment arrangements).*
- *Talking to Faculty Head Social Subjects, we may be into double figures with pupils. There is also one pupil who is sitting N5 Business and H Politics which is scheduled for the same time.*
- *Can we make a representation to the SQA about this as a council?*

I have checked the last 2 years Exam Timetables in terms of scheduling:

2024 - Politics was on the same day as Latin

2023 - Politics was on the same day and time as Latin. Admin & IT was on in the afternoon
I also contacted the PPR team to ask how many schools and pupils sat Higher Politics last year just to give us an idea of scale. It is still a little early to check exactly how many pupils will be entered for both exams:

- Number of schools who presented for Higher Politics: 19
- Number of pupils presented for Higher Politics: 266

All Saints Secondary School
Bannerman High School
Bellahouston Academy
Eastbank Academy
Hillhead High School
Holyrood Secondary School
Hyndland Secondary School
John Paul Academy
King's Park Secondary School
Knightswood Secondary School
Lochend Community High School
Lourdes Secondary School
Rosshall Academy
Shawlands Academy
St Andrew's Secondary School
St Margaret Mary's Secondary School
St Paul's High School
St Roch's Secondary School
St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School

ENQ31641
West Lothian Council

It has been raised today that the N5 PWW and N5 D&M are on the same day with only half an hour between them. As many schools will have young people who undertake both subjects this will cause some issues, especially for those with additional time. Is there anything we can do to raise this issue with SQA? It's possibly too late but we do know that some learners excel in these subjects and the time frame is rather tight even if we alter the start times for both papers.

Is there a mechanism to raise this as a concern?

ENQ31604

Hi,
Please see below for feedback from the Fife Co-ords group. If there is a response, then please get back to me and I can pass it on directly. They have already been directed to/I can direct them again to the info in the recent exam timetable comms. Thanks.

They highlighted concern with the new timetable, noting a lot of the candidates having 2 exams on the same day – for instance English and Psychology. Other days seemed to have minimal numbers sitting. If AA extra time is also taken into account for some candidates there is extra pressure and organisation required, and very long days for candidates. They noted there are more coincident exams and arrangements around these, in conjunction with the AA team (in terms of hotel accommodation etc.) makes things very difficult.
