

CfE Senior Phase English: National 4, 5 and Higher

In DEHS, English is a compulsory subject for all pupils in S4. Most pupils will be aiming to achieve either National 4 or National 5 by the end of their 4th year. Success at National 5 can lead to CfE Higher in either S5 or S6

National 4 (N4): English and Literacy

There is no final examination for N4 in English and Literacy. Assessment will be ongoing through the course and assessed by the teachers in the department. Pupils will create a portfolio of assessment evidence during S4. Evidence will take the form of:

- The creation and production of writing and speaking
- Analysis and evaluation of texts that can be read, watched, or listened to.

Course Content National 4

The Course is made up of four units:

Unit 1: English: Analysis and Evaluation

In this unit you will develop listening and reading skills. You will read many different types of texts, such as poems, plays, fiction, and a variety of non-fiction such as newspapers, reports, web-pages and advertisements. You will listen to and watch such texts as film, advertisements, news programmes, documentaries, video clips...

Unit 2: English: Creation and Production

In this unit you will create pieces of writing in a variety of different styles and formats: creative, informative, persuasive, personal...

You will also develop your speaking skills and be given opportunities to take part in group discussions and give presentations to an audience.

Unit 3: Literacy

This unit develops all your literacy skills: Talking, Listening, Reading and Writing. You will be reading, watching and creating non-fiction texts for this unit. Your literacy skills will be essential in the world beyond school.

Unit 4: Value added unit

In this unit you will be using use all your language and literacy skills. You will be given the opportunity to spend time researching a topic that truly interests you and to present your findings in a written or spoken piece. You will develop and use many skills in this unit: reading and researching, using ICT, organisation, evaluating sources, working with others, working independently... This is the final unit in the course.

You can gain individual unit passes in any of the four units. However, to achieve a course award in English, you need to pass all four units.

Assessment at National 4 will start near the end of term 2, in December.

National 5 Literacy unit

Some pupils who complete National 4 English and Literacy may go on to study for National 5 Literacy instead of National 5 English. This develops the skills assessed at N4 Literacy and could be a useful bridge before trying N5 English. This is an internally assessed unit.

N5 and Higher English

Course content

There are two internally assessed units that you need to pass to achieve a course award:

Unit 1: English: Analysis and Evaluation which will develop the Reading and Listening skills needed for National 4, dealing with more complex texts and ideas. You will also be expected to demonstrate confidence in working independently. You will study at least one Scottish text in preparation for the final exam.

Unit assessments- 2 components:

1) Listening: you will listen to a previously unseen moving image text (eg a talk show, documentary..) and be asked to answer analysis and evaluation questions on it.

2) Reading. You will be given an unseen print text in a genre you have learned how to analyse and evaluate (non-fiction or fiction) and a set of questions to answer.

Unit 2: English: Creation and Production which will develop the Writing and Talking skills. You will be expected to show that you have the ability to express yourself in writing and talking in a more complex way. You will also be expected to demonstrate confidence in working independently.

Unit assessments: 2 components

1) **Talking:** you will deliver a solo talk, or participate fully in a group discussion

2) **Writing:** you will produce a piece of writing that you will have to plan, research and write, closely monitored by your teacher

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

Component 1: You will sit formal examinations at the end of the National 5 and Higher Course. (70% of the overall mark)

Section 1: Reading. This will test your skills in Analysing, Evaluating and Summarising. The exam will be a piece of non-fiction text on which there will be a number of questions to answer. (30 marks)

Section 2: Critical Reading.

A) You will write one extended critical essay on a text you have studied. (20 marks)

B) You will answer questions and write a mini essay on a Scottish text you have studied in class during the course. (20 marks)

Component 2 : Folio of Writing (30% of the overall mark)

You will submit two pieces of writing, each for a different purpose. (Creative or Discursive). The final drafts will be sent to the SQA for marking. You will take responsibility for your folio and will be expected to plan, research, draft, edit and redraft with some guidance from your teacher. You will have the freedom to choose types of writing and topics after discussion with your teacher, but to make it manageable, you are likely to use the piece you did for the Creation and Production Writing unit assessment, and one other.

Homework

Homework will be issued at least once a week and probably more frequently than this at National 5 and Higher English. At N5 and Higher, we would be expecting pupils to spend about 2 hours a week doing English homework.

Homework takes various forms:eg

Reading part of a text in preparation for the next lesson
Answering some questions on close reading, or on the text that is being studied
Planning an essay
Learning quotations
Writing various drafts of essays for the folio
Research and planning a talk
Watching a documentary, or a current affairs programme, eg Question Time
Doing some language activities
Reading over notes/ revising (see information about “How to study English”)