



DOLLAR ACADEMY

FORM III COURSE CHOICE INFORMATION

SESSION 2026/2027

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FORM III and IV COURSES

All subjects offered at Form III/IV level are called National 5s (and, in some circumstances, National 4s). They have been introduced as part of the implementation of a Curriculum for Excellence, the 3-18 curriculum, in all Scottish schools.

This document is intended to be a guide to the subjects on offer and will provide a brief description of course content.

Please note that courses which attract only a very small number of pupils may not be offered. Affected pupils will be informed and will be asked to re-choose subjects. As far as is possible, this re-selection will be done before the curriculum columns are finalised and will be carried out in consultation with parents.

CURRICULUM COLUMNS

Online course choice submissions by pupils are used to produce the columns for the Form III curriculum for session 2026/27 and the Form IV curriculum for session 2027/28. There will then be five columns of optional subjects, and most Form III pupils will have to study one subject from each column. Once the process of column construction has been finished, usually by the end of the Spring term, it will NOT be possible to alter a pupil's subject choices except to choices which conform and are available within the column structure.

Please note that the number of subjects that the pupils will study and the organisation of the school day – 25 periods per week, each period one hour long – will not change for current Form II pupils.

COMPRESSED COURSES

Compressed courses have been running for several years. The rationale behind each is different. More detailed descriptions are to be found at other points in this booklet.

Whether compressed courses run or not will depend on the abilities of pupils, the demand for the subjects, and teaching and rooming resources. Entry to any compressed course must be in the best interests of the pupil and is at the discretion of the Academy.

NATIONAL 5

In all subjects, National 5 courses notionally require 160 hours of study. Pupils taking National 5 courses will sit external assessments in May-June of Form IV. To help pupils prepare for this largely summative assessment experience (most subjects), they sit summer examinations (normally April/May in the summer term) in Form III followed by full prelims (normally late November/December) in Form IV to replicate the final SQA assessment experience.

A very small number of pupils may be presented for a National 4 qualification. This course is entirely internally assessed and is ungraded (pupils will either pass or fail). A pupil's performance in National 5 will be graded A, B, C or D.

COMPULSORY EXAMINABLE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

English at this level aims to develop skills of expression and understanding that are also central to other subjects, as well as beyond the classroom. This is a course which encourages pupils to work with others and to be self-reliant. It stretches their thinking and imagination. There is a strong emphasis on the wider reading of poetry, drama, novels and non-fiction from contemporary and classic writers; pupils are also taught how to consolidate and extend their writing and talking skills. There are regular reading lessons where pupils will respond to a wide range of short stories and develop their personal reading tastes.

Literature is central to the course. Over the two years pupils are expected to cover a wide variety of texts, including poetry, novels, short stories, plays, journalism, non-fiction and film. Authors studied range from Shakespeare to Ishiguro, from Keats to Carver. Writing tasks largely reflect the categories required for assessment: reflective and creative writing, argumentative and discursive writing, critical essay writing. However, other forms, such as the regular practice of spontaneous writing and the development of note-taking skills, are also central to the course.

Pupils will work towards assessments of a journalistic style Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (RUAEE) passage, questions based on a prepared Scottish text, and a Critical Essay on a novel. They will also produce a portfolio of writing for external assessment. Comprehension, analysis, an understanding of structure, expressiveness and technical accuracy are key skills at this stage. Writing clearly, reading intelligently and speaking confidently should be the aims of every pupil.

MATHEMATICS

Our Form III and IV Mathematics course will equip pupils with the necessary knowledge and algebraic skills to allow them to access further branches of, and topics within Mathematics. In doing so, pupils will learn how to solve problems and to structure and present their work clearly and coherently. They will begin to see that attention to detail and precision is key to the mathematician and success in Mathematics at all levels.

Pupils will be encouraged to make connections within their learning, seeing the subject as a coherent, logical system and an interconnected web of widely applicable facts, and not a collection of separate routines to learn and regurgitate. They will use technology and online graphing calculators like Desmos and GeoGebra to help them visualise and see the equations of curves, and the impact of changing values has on the features of the graph. They will learn to review and interpret their answers, explaining them and any decision made in the context of the problem.

All pupils will cover the necessary material to allow them to achieve their very best in the National 5 Mathematics qualification at the end of Form IV. As they proceed through the course pupils will, depending on their class, cover additional work beyond the scope of the course to extend their learning, to ensure they are appropriately challenged and to lay firmer foundations for embarking on Higher Mathematics in Form V.

OPTIONAL EXAMINABLE SUBJECTS

FRENCH, GERMAN, MANDARIN and SPANISH

Here's why choosing a Modern Language is a brilliant idea!

Studying a language at National 5 is for everyone. These courses are designed to help you use a modern language confidently in real-life situations—from chatting with new people to travelling and exploring other cultures. You'll learn through four main themes: **Society, Culture, Learning and Employability**, all linked to things that matter in everyday life.

If you're up for an extra challenge, you can even study **two** modern languages. This can really boost your future opportunities and give you an advantage in the world of work.

You can also combine a language with other subjects—like Business, History, or Geography—to create a really strong set of skills. Pairing a language with another subject makes you even more prepared for further study and future jobs, showing that you can communicate, problem-solve, and think creatively in different areas.

In class, we use the language as much as possible. You'll get plenty of practice through group tasks, pair work, lively conversation sessions with our **native speaker assistants**, and lots of listening and speaking activities using a wide range of resources.

Our topics help build your skills step-by-step. You'll read and listen to real examples of the language so that you can create confident speaking and writing tasks of your own. Over Forms III and IV, you'll steadily grow your ability to understand and use the language in realistic, meaningful situations.

To succeed, you'll be expected to learn vocabulary regularly and prepare short pieces of writing based on classroom work. You'll also take part in structured conversations, giving you the chance to show off what you can do.

Learning a modern language is a highly valued skill. It opens doors in both your personal life and your future career—and employers love to see it.

After National 5, you can continue to **Higher in Form V**, taking you even closer to fluency in your chosen language(s).

A qualification in a Modern Language shows you can communicate effectively—an ability that's useful in absolutely every job and makes you stand out in any workplace.

LATIN

Evidence of the existence of ghosts; how best to create atmosphere at a dinner party; the ecological impact of wildlife on a small community; how to recover from a broken heart – the National 5 Latin course sees pupils grapple with all these wide-ranging issues, which the ancient sources reveal were just as pressing and relevant to the Roman mind as they are today. Latin is intrinsically interesting to anyone fascinated by people, ideas, words, or simply the past.

The initial focus of the course is upon acquiring the language skills which enable pupils to access the ‘real’ Latin of the ancient writers. Pupils receive an insight into the vocabulary and structure of this still-living language, enabling them to make comparisons with their own language and the modern Romance languages, to develop an understanding of how they are related through their Latin origins.

Through the reading of Latin authors, pupils develop a critical insight into the way language can be used to express feelings, to develop trains of thought or to influence people. This improves literacy and promotes literary appreciation. The texts prescribed for study provide a fascinating insight into the preoccupations of the Roman mind – and indeed of our own.

A qualification in Latin is still recognised by employers as an excellent training, even for jobs in seemingly unrelated fields. A basic understanding of the language is still a considerable advantage in most careers.

CLASSICAL STUDIES

In Classical Studies, pupils will explore ancient societies, discovering how the issues, structures and values of these are key to understanding the world around them. They begin to develop their sense of identity and place in the modern world by building a framework of religious, political, social, moral or cultural knowledge and understanding. The National 5 course provides pupils with the opportunity to study the beginnings of democracy in ancient Athens, and the beginnings of western literature in three books of Homer’s *Odyssey*. It also examines the development of civic life in Pompeii, before the dramatic eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Human nature remains the same, but ways of looking at the world change. Consequently, there is a strong comparative focus to our course, reflecting our belief that, while the Greco-Roman world is fascinating, it is particularly fascinating when compared and contrasted with the modern age.

Using a wealth of different types of evidence – literary, artistic, and monumental – the course seeks to develop pupils’ critical thinking skills and ability to construct arguments. On certain key questions, it is possible for pupils to familiarise themselves with all the surviving sources, so that their own interpretations are crucial. The Assignment component of the course assessment allows pupils an opportunity to investigate sources on a Classical topic or issue of their own choosing.

Classical studies not only encourages the development of a range of highly transferable skills, but also broadens pupils’ understanding of politics, preparing them well for a wide range of university courses, careers and professions.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography develops an awareness of the physical landscape and the ways in which people interact with their environment. It encourages a respect for and understanding of local, national and global issues and provides an interdisciplinary link between science and the arts.

The National 5 qualification is excellent preparation for both Higher Geography and Higher Environmental Science. Fieldwork in the local area is a central part of the course and provides the data collection required for the assignment. Useful transferable skills such as the use of maps, and interpreting and evaluating sources, will also be developed.

The course is divided into three sections:

Physical Environments:

- Climate and weather
- River landscapes and land use (River Devon case study)
- Limestone landscapes and conflict (Yorkshire Dales case study)

Human Environments:

- Population and development
- Rural change in India and the UK
- Urban change in Mumbai and Edinburgh

Global Issues (two from the following list):

- Climate change
- Natural Regions
- Environmental Hazards
- Trade and Globalisation
- Tourism
- Health

The fieldwork for the assignment will be completed at several points throughout the course, providing a choice of topic. It will include a day trip to Edinburgh to study urban environments. The assignment write-up will take place towards the end of Form IV.

In a dynamic workplace, a firm grounding in geographical concepts and a spatial awareness will help almost any career. Geography can also provide a springboard to a broad range of environmental, economic and scientific areas of study and careers.

HISTORY

The course we offer at National 5 level comprises of three units and a coursework assignment which is derived from one of the units of study. The course units are historical studies with a Scottish, British, and a European/World focus.

Each unit has a rich variety of content area to choose from and will allow the pupil to improve their skills of analysing and interpreting historical events as well as interpreting and evaluating a range of different historical sources. Honing communication skills, alongside the development of critical thinking are integral elements of the course.

The topics studied are:

- Hitler and Nazi Germany, 1919-39
- The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770-1807
- The Era of the Great War, Scotland 1900-1928.

The National 5 examination is very much in line with our usual teaching practice in History. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of events and illustrate an ability in evaluating a range of primary and secondary sources. The exam is allocated 80 marks.

There will also be a coursework assignment. The intention here is to allow for individual research and will be presented in an extended response form. The assignment is worth 20 marks and will be completed in the second term of Form IV.

MODERN STUDIES

Modern Studies is an interdisciplinary subject, combining the academic disciplines of Politics, International Relations and Sociology to provide our pupils with a firm grasp of the contemporary world, its problems, conflicts, ideologies and the role within all these areas of local and national government.

The National 5 exam comprises three units and a research piece.

The first unit focuses on different aspects of politics in the UK today. The UK is the oldest democracy in the modern world, and more countries have based their political systems on ours than on any other. Modern Studies pupils learn about the powers of Parliament and the Prime Minister. They will understand the place of Scotland within the British political system and look at the roles of political parties, pressure groups and the media in informing and representing the views of British Citizens.

The second unit concentrates on British society. Specifically, pupils will focus their studies on Crime and the Law, examining the causes of criminal behaviour and its impact on society. They assess various attempts to tackle crime, analysing their success. They will examine the structure of the system of criminal courts and the roles of the actors within it.

The third unit is about the politics and society of the USA. Pupils will learn about the American political system, with its mighty Congress and its famous Bill of Rights. They will examine the nature of the '*American Dream*' – the idea that built a nation - and look at the reality of political, economic and social life in the richest and most divided nation in the developed world.

These three units are worth 80 marks of the course award.

The research assignment is worth 20 marks of the course award. The skills developed in Modern Studies are essential in the information age. Pupils learn to analyse contemporary sources including traditional media, social media platforms, books, government publications and opinion surveys, detecting bias and selectivity and identifying reliable evidence. The assignment is completed in the second term of Form IV

COMPRESSED SCIENCES

Compressed Sciences were introduced into the curriculum in order to give some pupils the opportunity to study an additional subject, and so give them a broader base from which to choose courses in Form V. This option allows pupils of proven high academic ability in Form II, who wish to study the three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), the chance to introduce an extra subject by reducing their timetable allocation in each of the three sciences from three periods per subject per week, to two.

Experience has shown that only pupils who maintain a set of high grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics throughout Form II will manage to cope with this reduced time allocation. Whether compressed courses run or not will depend on the abilities of pupils, the demand for the subjects, and teaching and rooming resources. Entry to any compressed course must be in the best interests of the pupil and is at the discretion of the Academy.

It should be understood that some pupils may stand a better chance of gaining top grades in these subjects by taking them in regular (3 periods per week), uncompressed National 5 classes, which is always possible in the school's timetable.

BIOLOGY

The purpose of the National 5 Course is to develop learners' interest and enthusiasm for Biology whilst simultaneously allowing them to develop skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to the subject. The course will provide a solid grounding for Higher Biology, Higher Human Biology and Advanced Higher Biology.

The course covers major areas of Biology ranging from cells to whole organisms and ecosystems and will be comprised of the following units:

- Cell Biology
- Multicellular Organisms
- Life on Earth

During the course pupils will experience a variety of contexts and approaches to learning, including the opportunity to carry out practical work both in the laboratory and in the field. The course is broken down into 13 topics. Homework is set regularly throughout the two-year course and there are tests at the end of every topic.

Final assessment will take the form of an externally verified SQA examination at the end of Form IV and an individual assignment, which will be carried out in school and is worth 20% of the final mark.

CHEMISTRY

National 5 Chemistry aims to equip our pupils with a clear understanding of chemistry's impact on the environment and society. They will learn about how chemists manage the Earth's resources and will apply chemical principles to produce everyday products. Key chemical ideas of bonding, the mole (and other chemical calculations) and balanced chemical equations are integrated throughout the course to provide a secure grounding for the future study of chemistry and related sciences.

This course develops a broad, versatile and adaptable skills-set which is valued by employers and forms the basis for progress onto study of chemistry and related courses at a higher level. There are three units:

- Chemical Change and Structure
- Nature's Chemistry
- Chemistry in Society

The units deliver the key chemical theory and serve to develop skills. In addition, there is a piece of externally assessed coursework, the Assignment (20% of total marks), where pupils have the opportunity to apply the skills they have developed, and the chemical knowledge they have acquired.

A wide range of different teaching and learning methods is used to create a varied and engaging experience. Pupils will work through a full programme of investigative experimental work and activities, taking advantage of technology, through computer animations, simulations and video resources.

PHYSICS

The National 5 Physics course fosters an interest in current developments in Physics and a willingness to make critical and evaluative comment on a continually changing subject. The role of Physics in scientific issues, and the impact on society and the environment, will be closely examined.

The course covers the requirements of the SQA National 5 syllabus and provides an excellent basis for further study at Higher.

The Course comprises three mandatory units of study:

- Electricity and Energy
- Waves and Radiation
- Dynamics and Space

Assessment within National 5 is an external examination at the end of Form IV and an assignment based on experimental work.

The course involves theory, practical work and problem solving.

PETS COURSE

This course offers pupils the opportunity to gain National 5 qualifications in Physics, Economics and Engineering Science. It is targeted at pupils who are interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and who also have a keen interest in Economics. It is ideal for pupils who might be considering Engineering as a career, or Economics.

It uses the proven framework in Dollar Academy of three subjects in six hours rather than nine hours, these subjects being Physics, Economics and Engineering Science. In addition to covering all the work for these challenging Courses, the approach is one of cross-curricular co-operation. The Courses have been streamlined, and saved time is released to run valuable trips which explore the links between the subjects and expose the pupils to the application of these subjects in the real-world. In so doing we are developing skills and knowledge which Universities and innovative manufacturing companies declare must be present in the next generation of wealth producers of this country.

The academic rigour of the subject matter is complemented by the practical nature of the course. Pupils devise practical solutions to technological problems by studying what things do alongside how they work. This enables them to set in context the concepts they have learnt. They are encouraged to tackle tasks in a logical manner while being creative, innovative and ingenious.

ENGINEERING, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (EDT)

There are three different subjects that pupils can study at National 5 in EDT: Engineering Science, Graphic Communication and Design & Manufacture. Each of these subjects can be taken individually and, in addition to this, Engineering Science can be studied as part of the PETS combination of subjects. Pupils can take any combination of these subjects at National 5 and provide clear links for future careers in engineering and the creative industries and develops skills relevant to a vast range of other opportunities, both known and still to be identified.

Engineering, Design and Technology subjects enable pupils to explore the 21st century world around them and investigate how they can create solutions to both local and global problems. The attached link gives a little more information on the ranges of opportunities offered within EDT.

[EDT at Dollar Academy on Vimeo](#)

ENGINEERING SCIENCE

Engineering is a broad area which brings together elements of technology and science and applies these to real world challenges.

Our society needs more engineers and more young people with an informed view of engineering. This course provides a broad and challenging exploration of engineering. Because of its focus on developing transferable skills, it will be of value to many learners, and particularly beneficial to learners considering a career in engineering, or one of its many branches.

The Engineering Science course and Physics (and other pure sciences) are designed to be complementary; a combination of this course and a pure science course will provide a very strong foundation for further study in engineering or the sciences. The academic rigour of the subject matter is complemented by the practical nature of the Course. Pupils devise practical solutions to technological problems by studying what things do alongside how they work. This enables them to set in context the concepts they have learnt. They are encouraged to tackle tasks in a logical manner while being innovative and ingenious.

The course consists of the following Units:

Engineering Contexts and Challenges

This Unit develops an understanding of engineering concepts by exploring a range of engineered objects, engineering problems and solutions.

Electronics and Control

This Unit explores a range of key concepts and devices using in electronic control systems, including analogue, digital and programmable systems.

Mechanisms and Structure

This Unit develops an understanding of mechanisms and structures through problem solving and evaluation via simulation, practical projects and investigative tasks.

The National 5 Engineering Science course provides a solid foundation for progression onto Higher and Advanced Higher Engineering Science. The subject is fully approved as an entrance qualification for Higher Education courses.

End of course assessment is a written examination (67%) and class-based Assignment (33%). The Assignment takes place in the second half of term 2.

DESIGN & MANUFACTURE

The National 5 Course is concerned with the design and manufacture of consumer products. Pupils will learn about many aspects of commercial/industrial manufacturing processes and materials. In addition, they will have the opportunity to acquire skills and experience which are particularly useful if they are planning a career in design, engineering or in other creative problem-solving areas. Through a variety of projects based upon consumer products, the National 5 Design & Manufacture course allows pupils to learn what it is to design and engineer practical solutions to design problems. By developing graphical, prototyping and modelling skills, the Course enables young designers to convey their ideas in a vibrant and interesting manner.

The Course combines scientific and technological rigour with design and manufacturing creativity and innovation. It provides a range of broad options, possibilities and flexibilities in supporting educational growth. In the Course, pupils are encouraged to exercise imagination, creativity and logical thinking.

National 5 Design & Manufacture is an important choice for pupils who are considering pursuing design and/or engineering related courses at university or beyond. In addition to this, it develops pupils' problem-solving and critical thinking skills – both of which are valuable life skills for all forms of employment. The subject is fully approved as an entrance qualification for Higher Education courses.

The Course comprises two units plus a Design & Manufacture assignment:

- Unit 1 – Design
- Unit 2 – Materials and Manufacture
- Design and Manufacture design assignment.

End of course assessment is a written examination (44%), class-based design folio (31%) and practical manufacturing of design (25%). The folio and practical are undertaken following Prelims in Form IV.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Graphic Communication in all its forms is vital to society. Graphic communication is a means of passing on information visually and is used in various forms in many aspects of life including education, industry and commerce. National 5 Graphic Communication is designed to increase the pupils' awareness of the use of graphics and to learn about the technology used to create them. It provides a useful basis for further study and/or employment in a range of related fields particularly architecture, engineering and graphic design.

National 5 Graphic Communication provides a logical progression through to Higher Graphic Communication and subsequently onto university related courses. The subject is fully approved as an entrance qualification for Higher Education and Further Education courses.

The course consists of the following units of work:

2D Graphic Communication - development of manual drawing skills including 2D and 3D sketching and drawing skills; colour theory and rendering skills are an integral part of this.

3D and Pictorial Graphic Communication - using state of the art industry standard software pupils will develop CAD (computer-aided drawing) and desktop publishing skills in both 2D and 3D. This will complement the manual drawing skills that have been developed.

End of course assessment is a written examination (67%) and class-based Assignment (33% marks). The Assignment takes place in the second half of term 2.

COMPUTING SCIENCE

In today's fast-changing world, digital technology is transforming the way we live and work. It is driving innovation that helps tackle some of the world's biggest challenges, from climate change and sustainability to improving healthcare and connecting communities globally.

The National 5 Computing Science course gives pupils the chance to explore the technologies - hardware, software, web and database systems - that are shaping this change and creating solutions to complex environmental and societal issues. These technologies are at the heart of modern industries such as science, health, business, finance, retail, entertainment and manufacturing.

This is a highly practical course that also focuses on key theoretical concepts. It goes far beyond simply learning to use current hardware and software, equipping pupils with knowledge, understanding and problem-solving skills to help them become both informed digital users and innovative digital creators. The course also develops essential meta-skills for modern work, life and learning, including creativity, curiosity, communication, collaboration and sense-making.

Areas of Study

- Software Design and Development (SDD)
- Computer Systems
- Database Design and Development (DDD)
- Web Design and Development (WDD)

Throughout the SDD, WDD and DDD units, pupils learn techniques and tools for analysing, designing, testing and evaluating digital solutions. They will work with a range of industry standard programming languages, including Python, SQL, HTML, CSS and JavaScript, to implement solutions for real-world problems.

The course provides a clear progression to Higher and Advanced Higher Computing Science, and beyond to university-level computing and IT courses. However, it is also an excellent choice for pupils who do not plan to continue the subject, as it develops fundamental and transferable skills relevant to modern and future living.

Assessment

The final grade is based on two components:

- Coursework assignment (a timed, open-book practical assessment) – 33%
- Final written examination – 67%

The final grade awarded for the National 5 Computing Science course will be determined by combining two assessment components, specifically the coursework assignment (a timed open book practical assessment) (33%) and a final written examination (67%).

BUSINESS EDUCATION

There are three different subjects offered by the Business Education Department at National 5: Accounting, Business Management and Economics. They can each be taken by themselves, while Economics also forms part of the PETS Compression. Pupils can also take any combination of subjects if they are keen on a future career in business, accounting, finance or economics. About 25% of all Form VI pupils go on to study a business-related degree at university.

The Business Education subjects enable young people to investigate the relationships between modern society and the economic, financial and administrative structures and to understand and make informed judgements about aspects of society in both local, national and international contexts.

ACCOUNTING

The National 5 Accounting Course introduces learners to the dynamic world of business by developing skills in communicating essential financial information to the various stakeholders of an organisation, in a variety of presentation formats. The development of skills explicit to the Course will enable learners to accurately prepare, interpret and analyse financial information. These skills will support learners in becoming more self-confident in their abilities as well as giving them an understanding of how financial awareness can help them to make more informed decisions regarding their own financial future.

Pupils need to have strong mathematical ability to succeed in this subject – they require strong problem solving and logical thinking skills. They also need to be comfortable working by themselves.

The course has 2 units:

Financial Accounting - Candidates develop skills, knowledge and understanding to prepare, interpret and analyse financial accounting information by using the relevant accounting concepts and techniques. This information is used by stakeholders to assess their organisation's current financial position.

Management Accounting - Candidates develop skills, knowledge and understanding of internal accounting information, and are able to prepare this using a range of basic accounting techniques. This information is used by management when making decisions about the future planning and control of their business.

The Course combines practical and theoretical aspects of learning related to accounting and will allow learners to use ICT when completing both computer - and paper-based tasks. Accounting relates to many aspects of everyday life and, therefore, gives learners experiences which are topical and which develop skills for learning, life and work. The Course encourages learners to think logically and to apply accounting principles in their everyday lives, thereby supporting their personal financial awareness. The course would benefit any pupil who is interested in business and also running their own business. It is one of the most important business skills available.

The following provides a broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the course:

- prepare and present a range of straightforward accounting statements

- select straightforward accounting information to determine business revenues, costs and profits
- use ICT to produce and communicate straightforward accounting information in a range of contexts
- evaluate business success on the basis of accounting information
- prepare, interpret and analyse a range of accounting information
- use accounting techniques, in familiar contexts, to facilitate decision-making
- apply knowledge and understanding of fundamental accounting concepts and theories

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

National 5 Business Management introduces learners to the dynamic, changing, competitive and economic environment of industry and commerce. It is a diverse course covering many areas of modern business, such as the role of businesses in society, legal structures and the functions of marketing, operations, human resource management and finance.

Business plays an essential role in society: creating wealth, prosperity, jobs and choices. Much emphasis is placed on developing decision-making and analytical skills in order to equip pupils for today's highly competitive business environment. Pupils will enrich their study with an awareness of current business news through an intelligent use of media available, with projects providing active learning in real-life contexts. Pupils present and interpret information in a variety of business contexts, allowing them to develop their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

This course forms a solid grounding for progression to the Higher Business Management Course. It is useful for pupils intending to pursue a career in finance, law, project management, marketing or human resource management.

Pupils require strong reading and writing skills to be able to access this course successfully and the ability to retain large volumes of information.

ECONOMICS

All societies, organisations and individuals face the basic economic problem of allocating scarce resources among competing uses. The study of National 5 Economics provides the knowledge base and the range of skills which promote an understanding of the economic dimension of life which revolves around the production and consumption of goods and services. Economics is therefore concerned with decisions made by individuals, businesses, government and other organisations, and the environment in which they operate.

This Course is concerned with the ways in which such choices about the use of resources are made, and the implications that these choices have for individuals in particular and for organisations and society in general. It will build on students' own experiences as consumers and, in addition, help them to interpret economic events through the application of basic economic principles and ideas.

This Course provides an excellent basis for the Higher Economics Course and will be of particular benefit to anyone who is considering a career in business (including running your own business as an entrepreneur), banking & finance, stockbroking, investment, accountancy, insurance, law or other related careers such as journalism and management consultancy. It is also useful if you are considering a professional career such as doctor, dentist or architect and you are running your own practice.

In order to succeed in this course pupils require strong written and numerical skills – Economics is a unique combination of science and arts subject – it involves graphs, formulae and lots of new words. This subject also requires a lot of common sense to be able to think about theories and concepts and to be able to relate them to current economic issues.

MUSIC

There are two courses available at National 5: Music Performing and Music Technology. Both courses give pupils the opportunity to develop a wide range of technical and creative skills. Pupils develop confidence to perform in public. Peer and self-evaluation skills are an important part of every learning opportunity. Pupils learn how to analyse music and place it in historical context and apply what they experience in listening classes to the creative process of composition. The latest computer software is used to create and manipulate music and to develop aural and musical literacy skills.

MUSIC PERFORMING

This SQA course will be offered over two years at National 5 level. The course has three main components: performing; composing; and understanding music and pupils have the opportunity to develop skills in all of these areas. Pupils perform on two instruments or one instrument and voice and have access to a cloud-based software programme called MusicFirst to reinforce coursework at home. They are also introduced to Sibelius, another software programme used for composition. Pupils who do not currently learn an instrument or only perform on one currently, should speak with their current Music teacher to discuss options and potential classroom instruments that may be available.

Assessment takes place throughout the session across the 3 Units and will include:

Composition exercises linked to listening topics and concepts
Regular listening assessments, mini projects and presentations
Regular performances in class with opportunities to perform in lunchtime concerts

The courses will be **externally** assessed in Form IV as follows:

Listening (35%): Complete a listening paper in the summer of Form IV covering music from 1600 to present day

Performing (50%): Pupils must reach Grade 3 standard of singing/playing by February of Form IV when they will perform to a visiting assessor in the school auditorium. They will play on 2 instruments or one instrument and voice and will need a programme of music lasting 8 minutes in total. (with a minimum of 2 minutes on one of the instruments /voice)

Composing (15%): Pupils will produce a folio piece of compositions lasting between 1 – 2 ½ minutes supported by a written review of the composition process.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

This SQA course will be offered over two years at National 5 level. Pupils have the opportunity to develop skills as performer, listener and sound engineer. Pupils develop skills in capturing and manipulating sound and plan, implement and evaluate sound productions. Pupils record and edit using Pro Tools software and Soundtrap.

For this course pupils **do not** need to play an instrument but must have a keen interest in popular music and technology.

The Units are **internally** assessed as follows:

Listening Skills: regular listening assessments, presentations and reports focussing on 20th and 21st century music.

Music Technology Skills: technology tasks and mini assignments, using Pro Tools software and music hardware.

Music Technology in Context: 2 folio pieces demonstrating capturing and manipulating audio in contexts such as a radio broadcast, a sound design for a short film and/or a live recording.

Some pupils may take an additional National 4 or 5 unit in Performing Skills if they already play an instrument to Grade 3 standard (or above)

The courses will be **externally** assessed in Form IV as follows:

Listening 30%: Pupils will complete a listening paper in the summer of Form IV, focusing on 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres. It will include music and music technology specific concepts and components.

Music Technology Folio 70%: Pupils will complete a sound recording folio using the software Pro Tools. This may include recording live bands and musicians, creating audio for video games or creating podcasts and radio shows. All projects must be accompanied by a detailed log book, showing planning evidence and evaluations.

Pupils considering this course should also note that the subject requires attendance at Twilight nights where pupils have the opportunity to record and edit within the department after school hours from 5 – 8pm. This allows for a quieter environment and a more concentrated episode of work. These take place once a term or when deemed necessary by the teacher.

ART and DESIGN

This National 5 level course in Art and Design is produced in order to develop confidence in creative skills. The programme of assignments is arranged to give exciting opportunities in forming visual ideas in a wide range of materials and techniques. The first year offers an introduction with a balance of work giving experience in contrasting projects: they provide a lively approach to research and investigation as part of the creative process. The second group of Units, in Form IV in Expressive and Design are submitted for assessment. Throughout the Course there are interesting discussions of examples of works of Art and Design that help to deepen experience and knowledge of the wider world of creativity.

DESIGN: There are two Design Units, involving a response to a design brief, investigation and development of ideas and a completed solution.

EXPRESSIVE: The two Expressive Units involve a personal reaction to a subject that allows for research and a consideration of different approaches and then a completed artwork.

ART AND DESIGN STUDIES: There are two investigation topics in Expressive and Design followed by a short-written exam.

Throughout the course, pupils are encouraged to discuss and evaluate their work, and all the projects form an on-going exhibition both in the Art and Design Department and on the walls of the school.

DRAMA

“An Actor must interpret life, and in order to do so they must be willing to accept all experiences life can offer.” Marlon Brando

The National 5 Drama course offers pupils a dynamic and engaging opportunity to explore both the practical and theoretical aspects of drama. Through this course, pupils develop a range of skills including acting, directing, and production. They learn to create and present drama, working collaboratively to bring their ideas to life. The course also emphasises critical thinking and evaluative skills, encouraging students to analyse and reflect on their own work and that of others. By exploring various forms, genres, and styles of drama, pupils gain a deeper understanding of cultural and social influences on the art form. This course is ideal for those with a keen interest in Drama and those looking to build confidence, creativity and communication skills.

In the first year, pupils will complete a range of units focussing on acting, design and devising. Work is collaborative and highly explorative, allowing pupils to develop their creative thinking skills.

National 5 Drama gives pupils the opportunity to specialise in any of the following areas -

- Acting
- Lighting Design
- Sound Design
- Prop making
- Hair & Makeup
- Costume Design
- Set Design

The examinable elements of the course are broken down into the following elements:

Practical (60%): Actors will rehearse and present an extract from a published play / Designers will complete all associated work with their specialism for an acting extract.

Written (40%): Pupils will complete a short response question paper based on self-evaluation and devising skills.

Pupils will be expected to work out with class times on the approach to prelims & exams – the Drama Studio becomes available to them for additional rehearsals whilst a number of written tasks are completed at home via OneNote.

National 5 Drama is not only for those individuals who want to pursue a career in the Arts but also for those who want to work in any industry that requires collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Pupils who have studied Drama have gone on to work in industries including the Arts, Medicine, Law and Economics among others.

PRACTICAL COOKERY

The National 5 Practical Cookery course is designed for pupils who are interested in food and cooking and enjoy being creative with food. Those who have chosen to follow it may wish to utilise their cookery knowledge and skills at home, in the wider community or, ultimately, in the hospitality industry.

The course contains a significant practical component and is supported by related theory. It anticipates future needs and enables pupils to learn how to plan, prepare and cook food for themselves and others. It also develops organisational skills, which have an application in a wide variety of contexts. An understanding of the importance of sustainable ingredients will also be developed.

The course aims to enable pupils to:

- proficiently use a range of cookery skills, food preparation techniques and cookery processes when following recipes
- select and use ingredients to produce and garnish or decorate dishes
- develop an understanding of the characteristics of ingredients and an awareness of their sustainability
- develop an understanding of current dietary advice relating to the use of ingredients
- plan and produce meals and present them appropriately
- work safely and hygienically

Practical and theoretical homework will be issued in addition to regular assessments throughout the course.

Course Assessment

- Question paper - 25% of total course award (this is completed within the main diet of the SQA exams).
- Assignment and Practical activity - 75% of total course award (this is completed prior to the main diet of SQA exams).