



DOLLAR ACADEMY

FORM III COURSE CHOICE INFORMATION

SESSION 2021/2022

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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

The data on course choices obtained at interview are used to produce the columns for the Form III curriculum for session 2021/22 and the Form IV curriculum for session 2022/23. 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 second week of the summer term, it will NOT be possible to alter a pupil's subject choices except to choices which conform to 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 5/4

In all subjects, National 5 (and National 4) courses notionally require 160 hours of study. Pupils taking National 5 courses will sit external assessments in May-June of Form IV, while National 4 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. Pupils will sit the National 5 Course assessments at the end of Form IV before going on to Higher English in FV; a small group of pupils may benefit from an extra year's maturity and further study in this discipline, and would be best advised to consider taking Higher English in FVI.

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 Golding, 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 Close Reading passage, questions based on a prepared Scottish text, and a Critical Essay on a literary text. 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

The Mathematics course in Forms III and IV aims to help pupils to learn how to describe, tackle and solve problems which require the use of mathematical techniques. Pupils are encouraged to see the subject as a coherent, logical system of wide applicability and not simply a collection of separate skills which must be learnt. There is much work done on the interpretation of situations requiring mathematical skills and explanation of solutions related to the context of the problem.

National 5 Mathematics

The National 5 Course is a thorough preparation for going on to Higher Mathematics in Form V.

National 5 Applications of Mathematics

The Applications of Mathematics course will suit pupils who do not intend to carry on to Higher Mathematics in Form V. The course gives learners the opportunity to follow a course that has a focus on financial and statistical mathematics rather than the more abstract algebraic and trigonometric content found in National 5 Mathematics. Those students for whom Applications would be suitable often have a marked increase in mathematical confidence and success through choosing this pathway, and by taking more time and having more support in small classes they have improved overall outcomes in Mathematics by the time they finish Form VI. Those who follow Applications may, via the National 5 Course in Form V, go on to Higher in Form VI.

Topics covered at National 5 Mathematics include:

Number and money, including the use of fractions, decimals and percentages;
Measure and shape, including lengths, areas, volumes, trigonometry and vectors;
Relationships, including tables, graphs, equations and proportionality;
Algebraic manipulation, including factorising, surds, indices and the rearrangement of formulae;
Statistics, including various charts, measures of location and spread, and probability.

Topics covered in National 5 Applications include:

Number, including the use of fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio;
Measure and shape, including lengths, areas, volumes;
Financial skills, including budgeting, income, currencies and savings and borrowing;
Statistical skills, including risk, statistical diagrams and comparing data sets.

National 4 Mathematics

Although most pupils will attempt a National 5 Course, the National 4 Course may be a better alternative for a small number of pupils. Those who follow National 4 may, via the National 5 Course in Form V, go on to Higher in Form VI. Alternatively, they may choose to study National 5 Applications of Maths in Form V and National 5 Maths in Form VI. This progression would, of course, depend on the aptitude and determination of the individual pupil concerned.

Both National 4 and 5 courses include a 'non-calculator' paper within the final assessment and all pupils will be expected to develop arithmetical skills to an appropriate standard.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

This mandatory course in Form III is timetabled for one period a week. It aims to provide pupils with digital literacy skills in a variety of practical computer applications, including Microsoft Office programs.

In Form IV, IT will be delivered through the PSE programme. Units of practical work in Cybersecurity, Collaborative Learning and Digital Literacy will be undertaken through the year, in conjunction with a carousel of other topics.

OPTIONAL EXAMINABLE SUBJECTS

FRENCH, GERMAN, MANDARIN and SPANISH

These National 5 Courses give pupils of all abilities the opportunity to use a modern language as a practical and effective means of communication; they aim to develop skills which will enable pupils to cope confidently with the language in real-life situations. The course covers 4 main contexts of Society, Culture, Learning and Employability and offers topics relevant to everyday life. The study of 2 modern languages is also an option to consider.

The modern language will be used in the classroom as much as possible. In addition, pupils are given exposure to, and practice in, the language through frequent group and paired work, conversation sessions with our native-speaker assistants, and speaking and listening work using a wide variety of resources.

Our work is topic based. Reading and listening materials provide pupils with the language required for them eventually to create confident speaking and writing assignments on the same theme. In this way, their expertise in understanding and using the language in realistic situations will increase and develop over the course of Forms III and IV.

Success in the study of a modern language will equip pupils with a valued and sought-after skill which they can apply in both their professional and personal life.

Pupils can progress to Higher in Form V leading to fluency in their chosen modern language(s).

LATIN

In the modern world, Latin is intrinsically interesting to anyone fascinated by people, ideas, words, studying the way society works, or simply the past. The study of Latin provides pupils with an insight into the structure of this still-living language, enabling them to make comparisons with their own language. They learn that many English words are derived from Latin and improve their command of their own language by adding considerably to their vocabularies. They develop a sound basis for the study of Romance languages, such as French, Spanish and Italian, and an understanding of how they are related through their Latin origins.

Through the reading of Latin authors, they develop a critical insight into the way language is 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

Classical Studies at certificate level makes a significant contribution to pupils' understanding of the nature and importance of citizenship in a civilised society. The National 5 Classical Studies course provides pupils with the opportunity to study the beginnings of western 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.

Using a wealth of different types of evidence – literary, artistic, and monumental – the course seeks to develop pupils' ability to think for themselves. On certain key questions, it is possible for pupils to familiarise themselves with *all* the surviving sources, so that their own interpretations are crucial. Archaeological evidence may be interpreted first-hand, on visits to historic sites.

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 in itself, it is particularly fascinating when compared and contrasted with the modern age.

Pupils and parents concerned about the implications of choosing Classics-based subjects for future job prospects are reassured that employers hold Classicists in high regard, owing to their ability to think logically, and their well-developed interpretative skills. Former Dollar Academy pupils who took Classical Studies are now working successfully in every professional field.

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. A residential fieldtrip will cover the fieldwork techniques and data collection required for the added value project. Useful transferable skills such as the use of maps, and interpreting and evaluating sources, will also be developed.

The course is divided into three Units:

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|------------------------|---|
| Physical Environments: | How rivers and limestone landscapes are formed, and used by people, including case studies of the River Devon and the Yorkshire Dales. |
| Human Environments: | Population change and how people influence and interact with their environment in rural and urban areas, and comparing countries across the world, with case studies in India and the UK. |
| Global Issues: | Environmental hazards (volcanoes, earthquakes and tropical storms) and exploring the contemporary issue of climate change. |

The fieldwork for the assignment will be completed by the end of Form III, with the write-up taking place at 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
- Migration and Empire, Scotland 1830-1939.

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.

MODERN STUDIES

Modern Studies is an interdisciplinary subject, combining the academic disciplines of Politics, International Relations and Sociology to provide the pupil 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 from traditional newspapers to the internet, detecting bias and selectivity and identifying reliable evidence.

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.

Only pupils who maintain a set of high grades in all three sciences 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 uncompressed classes.

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 will run over two years. Assessment will take the form of an externally verified SQA examination at the end of Form IV and an individual investigation which will be carried out in school.

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 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 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, 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 over-arching assignment based on experimental work.

The course involves theory, practical work and the enhancement of knowledge using modern media and internet resources.

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 with a technical bias.

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 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 used 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.

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.

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 and Advanced 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.

COMPUTING SCIENCE

Computing Science is vital to everyday life as computing is embedded in the world around us - socially, technologically and economically. The National 5 Computing Science course helps pupils to understand computational processes and thinking which impacts many fields including science, economics, business and industry.

The course is very practical and covers far more than simply learning how to use current hardware and software. It is designed to provide pupils with the knowledge and understanding, and the practical problem-solving skills that will help them become both the IT users and the IT designers of the future. 31% of the overall marks for the course assessment is derived from a practical assignment.

The course has four areas of study:

- Software Design and Development
- Computer systems
- Database Design and Development
- Web Design and Development

Pupils will develop knowledge, understanding and practical problem-solving skills in these four areas through a variety of practical and investigative tasks. A range of development tools such as Python IDLE, SQL, HTML, CSS and JavaScript are used.

The course is designed to be a logical progression to the Higher and Advanced Higher levels, and hence to IT and computing related courses at university level. It can, however, also be a good subject choice for pupils not necessarily intending to take the subject past Form IV. All learners will benefit from the development of fundamental and transferable computing skills, and from the underpinning computing knowledge necessary to meet the needs of society today and for the future.

BUSINESS EDUCATION

There are three different subjects that the Business Education Department offers – Accounting, Business Management and Economics. They can each be taken by themselves, while Economics also forms part of the PETS Course. Pupils can also take any combination of subjects if they are keen on a future career in business and finance. About 30% of all pupils go onto study a business-related degree at university.

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.

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 handle, present and interpret information in a variety of business contexts, thus developing their problem-solving skills.

This course forms a solid grounding for progression to the Higher Business Management Course. It is useful for anyone who is intending to pursue a career in Business Management, Project Management, Marketing or Human Resource Management.

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.

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 and 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 music and to develop aural and musical literacy skills.

MUSIC PERFORMING

This SQA course will be offered over two years at National 5 level. Pupils have the opportunity to develop skills as performer, composer and listener. The course has three main components: performing; composing; and understanding music. Pupils perform on two instruments or one instrument and voice. Pupils use Sibelius 7 software for composition.

The Units are internally assessed as follows:

Composing Skills:	composition exercises linked to listening topics
Listening Skills:	regular listening assessments
Performing Skills:	regular performances in class with opportunities to perform in lunchtime concerts.

Pupils also participate in group performances. Pupils carry out self-evaluation tasks. (minimum level ABRSM grade 3).

The courses will be **externally** assessed as follows:

Listening (35%):	a listening paper
Performing (50%):	Solo or Group performances on two instruments or one instrument and voice

Programmes last 8 minutes with a minimum of 2 minutes on one instrument/voice

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

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 a live recording.

Some pupils will take an additional National 4 or 5 unit in Performing Skills

The courses will be **externally** assessed as follows:

- Listening: - 30%. A listening paper focusing on 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres with specific music technology related components.
- Music Technology Folio: - 70%. A sound recording folio with audio files and log book, plan and evaluation.

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 art work.

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*"All The World's A Stage"*

The National 5 Drama Course is both academic and practical. Fifty per cent of the Course award is performance based , fifty per cent on creating and analysing a piece of theatre.

The skills that the National 5 course develops are crucial in the modern world. Presentation skills; the development of register, tone and fluency of voice; accurate use of language; collaborative work; self-awareness; working under pressure to deadlines and, most important of all, creative thinking.

While a good number of pupils have gone on to careers in Theatre, many others have found the skills they honed on the Drama course to be of great use in the professions and business as well as the Arts.