



The New National Qualifications

Cathkin High School.

A guide for Parents and Pupils

Why are things changing?

New qualifications are being introduced in Scotland from August 2013.

The new **Nationals**, **Highers** and **Advanced Highers** will replace the existing **Access**, **Standard Grade**, **Intermediate**, **Higher** and **Advanced Higher** qualifications.

These new qualifications are designed to give your child the skills they will need to succeed in the 21st century.



The new qualifications have been

developed to support Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), which introduced a new way of learning to secondary schools and colleges in 2010.

When are the new qualifications being introduced?

National 1, National 2, National 3, National 4 and National 5 will be available from August 2013.

The new **Higher** will be introduced in August 2014 and the new **Advanced Higher** in August 2015.

The final exam results for **Standard Grade** will be issued in August 2013.

What is changing?

This table shows which of the current qualifications the new National Qualifications will replace:

| SQF Level | Current National Qualification | Replaced by | New National Qualification |
|-----------|--|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1 and 2 | Access 1 and Access 2 | ⇒ | National 1 and National 2 |
| 3 | Access 3 Standard Grade (Foundation level) | ⇒ | National 3 |
| 4 | Standard Grade (General level) Intermediate 1 | ⇒ | National 4 |
| 5 | Standard Grade (Credit level) Intermediate 2 | ⇒ | National 5 |
| 6 | Higher | ⇒ | Higher (new) |
| 7 | Advanced Higher | ⇒ | Advanced Higher (new) |

How will the new qualifications be assessed?

National 4 will be marked and assessed by the staff in the school. Each department will manage internal assessment for their subjects. The SQA will check internal assessments to ensure that assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

National 4 Courses will be made up of Units, including an Added Value Unit. In order to achieve a Course at National 4, learners will need to pass all Units plus an Added Value Unit assessment. The National 4 Added Value Unit assessment will be set and marked by the school or college.

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Courses will also include Units that are assessed and marked by the school. In order to achieve a Course at National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher, learners must pass all Units plus a Course assessment. Course assessments will continue to be externally marked by SQA. The Course assessment will normally be carried out using one or two assessment methods from seven possible types:

- assignment
- case study
- practical activity
- performance
- portfolio
- project
- question paper / test

How will they be graded?

All Courses will continue to contain Units that are marked throughout the year by teachers as it is at present. These Units will be assessed as pass or fail, as is the case with current qualifications.

Courses at **National 4** will not be graded, but will be assessed as a pass or fail. Courses at **National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher** will be graded A to D, or 'No Award'.

If a learner does not achieve a Course assessment at National 4, National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher, they will still receive credit for any Units they have achieved at that level. So, when the learner receives their qualifications certificate, the Units they have passed within the Course will appear on the detailed Record of Attainment section of their qualifications certificate pack.

REMINDER!

- To gain **National 4**, learners **must pass all Units**
- **Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school** (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- To gain **National 5**, learners **must pass all Units and the Course Assessment**
- **Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school** (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- **The Course Assessment will be assessed and graded A to D or NO AWARD by the SQA.**

Which courses are on offer at Cathkin High?

| Administration & IT | |
|---|---|
| National 4: | National 5 |
| 3 Units: ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES IT SOLUTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS COMMUNICATION IN ADMINISTRATION | |
| Added Value Unit: ADMINISTRATION AND IT ASSIGNMENT | Course Assessment: (100 marks) The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment which will require learners to use their knowledge and skills to prepare for and support an event. |

| Art and Design | |
|---|---|
| National 4: | National 5 |
| 2 Units: EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY DESIGN ACTIVITY | |
| Added Value Unit: PRACTICAL ACTIVITY | Course Assessment: (200 Marks) The Course Assessment consists of the Portfolio (showing development and evaluation leading to one final piece of expressive art work and one final design solution) (160 marks) and a Question Paper lasting 1hour and 10 minutes (40 marks). |

| Biology | |
|--|--|
| National 4: | National 5 |
| 3 Units: CELL BIOLOGY MULTICELLULAR ORGANISMS LIFE ON EARTH | |
| Added Value Unit: BIOLOGY ASSIGNMENT: The Assignment will require learners to research a topic of their choice, in consultation with their teacher. The investigation will be undertaken in up to 8 hours of class time and the findings will be written up in no more than 2 hours. | Course Assessment: (100 marks) The Course Assessment will be a two-section Question Paper (20 marks multiple choice and 60 marks extended written paper) and an Assignment which will require learners to research a topical issue (20 marks) |

| Business Management | |
|---|---|
| National 4 | National 5 |
| Units: BUSINESS IN ACTION INFLUENCES ON BUSINESS | Units: UNDERSTANDING BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE & FINANCE MANAGEMENT OF MARKETING & OPERATIONS |
| Added Value Unit: BUSINESS ASSIGNMENT The Added Value Unit will require learners to produce a business proposal. | Course Assessment: (100 marks) The Course Assessment consists of a Question Paper (70 marks) and an Assignment (30 marks) requiring learners produce a report on a business in response to a brief. |

| Chemistry | |
|---|---|
| National 4 | National 5 |
| Units: CHEMICAL CHANGES AND STRUCTURE NATURE'S CHEMISTRY CHEMISTRY IN SOCIETY | |
| Added Value Unit: CHEMISTRY ASSIGNMENT | Course Assessment: (100 marks) The Course Assessment will be a two-section Question Paper (20 marks multiple choice and 60 marks extended written paper) and an Assignment which will require learners to research a topical issue (20 marks) |

| Computing Science | |
|--|---|
| National 4 | National 5 |
| Units: SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT | |
| Added Value Unit: COMPUTING SCIENCE ASSIGNMENT The Added Value Unit is an Assignment which requires learners to analyse and solve a computing science problem and to gather evidence of progress (eg in a blog or diary). | Course Assessment: (150 marks) COURSE ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (60 marks) where learners will analyse and solve a computing science problem and gather evidence and a Question Paper (90 marks). |

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Dance</i> | |
| National 5 | |
| Units: DANCE: TECHNICAL SKILLS DANCE: CHOREOGRAPHY | |
| Course Assessment: (100 marks) The course assessment will consist of a Performance (35 marks) and a Practical Activity (65 marks) | |

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Design and Manufacture</i> | |
| National 4 | National 5 |
| Units: DESIGN MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING | |
| Added Value Unit: The Added Value Unit will involve learners being given a brief to which they will respond, applying skills and knowledge gained from the Units, to prepare a design folio and a prototype. | Course Assessment: (150 MARKS) The Course Assessment consists of a two-section Question Paper (60 marks) and an Assignment (90 marks), marked in accordance with SQA guidelines. For the Assignment, learners will be given a brief for which they prepare a design folio and a prototype, applying skills and knowledge gained from the Units. |

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Drama</i> | |
| National 4 | National 5 |
| Units: DRAMA SKILLS PRODUCTION SKILLS | |
| Added Value Unit: The Added Value Unit (Performance) will require learners to apply their learning by participating in a live drama, either with an acting or a production role | Course Assessment: (100 marks) The Course Assessment consists of a Question Paper (40 marks) and a Performance (60 marks), assessed by both the centre in accordance with SQA guidelines and the SQA in which learners take part in a live production and keep a log with supporting information and background research. |

English

National 4

National 5

Units:

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
- the receptive skills of reading and listening to understand, analyse and evaluate texts
CREATION AND PRODUCTION – the productive skills of writing and talking to create oral and written texts
LITERACY
– the four skills of reading, listening, writing and talking in forms relevant to learning, life and work

Units:

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
– the receptive skills of reading and listening to understand, analyse and evaluate texts
CREATION AND PRODUCTION
– the productive skills of writing and talking to create oral and written texts

Added Value Unit:

The Assignment will involve an oral presentation or an essay

Course Assessment: (100 marks)

TWO QUESTION PAPERS + ASSIGNMENT.
Paper 1: 'Reading for Understanding, Analysis, and Evaluation': question paper worth 30 marks.
Paper 2: 'Critical Reading' 40 marks: one essay worth 20 marks, one question paper worth 20 marks.
Portfolio: 2 pieces of writing in different genres worth 30 marks

French

National 4

National 5

Units:

UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGES
Receptive skills – listening and reading in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture
USING LANGUAGES
Productive skills – talking and writing in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

Added Value Unit:

The Assignment will require learners to investigate and report on a French language film with an oral presentation and questions

Course Assessment: (100 marks)

TWO QUESTION PAPERS + PERFORMANCE
Paper 1: reading (30 marks) and writing (20 marks)
Paper 2: listening (20 marks).
Performance (30 marks): a presentation in French followed by questions (internally assessed in accordance with SQA guidelines).

| Geography | |
|--|---|
| National 4 | National 5 |
| Units: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS GLOBAL ISSUES | |
| Added Value Unit: GEOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT The Added Value Unit (Assignment) will involve learners in selecting, researching and presenting findings on an issue of their choice, applying their knowledge and understanding. | Course Assessment: (80 marks) ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER The question paper is worth 60 marks. The Assignment (20 marks) will involve learners in selecting, researching and presenting findings on an issue of their choice, applying their knowledge and understanding. It will be written up under timed conditions (one hour). |

| Graphic Communication | |
|---|--|
| National 4 | National 5 |
| Units: 2D GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION 3D AND PICTORIAL GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION | |
| Added Value Unit: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT The Added Value Unit (Assignment) will involve learners being given a brief to which they will respond, applying skills and knowledge gained from the Units | Course Assessment: (120 marks) ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER The Course Assessment (60 marks) consists of an Assignment (a brief to develop into a final solution, marked internally using SQA guidelines) and a Question Paper (60 marks) of 1 hour and 45 minutes. |

History

National 4

National 5

Units:

HISTORICAL STUDY:
Medieval, Early Modern or Later Modern Periods
1. SCOTTISH
2. BRITISH
3. EUROPEAN AND WORLD

Units:

HISTORICAL STUDY: SCOTTISH
five topic choices e.g. Mary Queen of Scots and
the Reformation
HISTORICAL STUDY: BRITISH
five topic choices e.g. The Atlantic Slave Trade
1770–1807
HISTORICAL STUDY: EUROPEAN AND WORLD
ten topic choices e.g. Free At Last? Civil Rights in
the USA 1918–1960

Added Value Unit:
HISTORY ASSIGNMENT

**Course Assessment: (80 marks)
ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER**

The Course Assessment will be a question paper worth 60 marks and an assignment. For the assignment, pupils will choose and independently research an appropriate historical issue before writing up their findings at a pre-arranged time in class. Pupils will have 1 hour to complete their write up (20 marks)

Hospitality

National 4

Units:

COOKERY SKILLS, TECHNIQUES & PROCESSES
UNDERSTANDING AND USING INGREDIENTS
ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS FOR COOKING

Added Value Unit:

Producing a Meal

✓ Produce a two course meal for a given number of people, safely and hygienically.

- Controlled assessment set by school using SQA guidelines.
- Conducted under some supervision and control.

The activity will be assessed by the teacher on a pass/fail and verified by SQA.

Mathematics

National 4

National 5

Units:
EXPRESSIONS AND FORMULAE
RELATIONSHIPS
NUMERACY

Added Value Unit:
MATHEMATICS TEST
The Added Value Unit (the Test) is in two parts
(non calculator and calculator.

Course Assessment: (90 marks)
TWO QUESTION PAPERS
Paper 1: Non Calculator (40 marks)
Paper 2: Calculator (50 marks)

Modern Studies

National 4

National 5

Units:
DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM
SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Added Value Unit:
MODERN STUDIES ASSIGNMENT

COURSE ASSESSMENT: (80 marks)
ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER
The Course Assessment will be a question paper worth 60 marks and an assignment. For the assignment pupils will choose and independently research an appropriate Modern Studies issue before writing up their findings at a pre-arranged time in class. Pupils will have 1 hour to complete their write up. (20 marks)

Music

National 4

National 5

Units:
PERFORMING SKILLS
COMPOSING SKILLS
UNDERSTANDING MUSIC

**Added Value Unit:
PERFORMANCE**

The Added Value Unit (Performance) will require learners to prepare and perform a programme of music.

**Course Assessment: (100 marks)
PERFORMANCE + QUESTION PAPER**

The Course Assessment consists of a Question Paper worth 40 marks (exam with listening component) and a Performance worth 60 marks (an 8 minute programme of music with two instruments or instrument and voice).

Physical Education

National 4

National 5

Units:
PERFORMANCE SKILLS
FACTORS IMPACTING ON PERFORMANCE

Added Value Unit:

The Added Value Unit consists of a Performance in an activity of the learner's choice.

**Course Assessment: (100 marks)
PERFORMANCE + PORTFOLIO**

The performance is worth 60 marks and the portfolio is worth 40 marks.

Physics

National 4

National 5

Units:
ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
WAVES AND RADIATION
DYNAMICS AND SPACE

**Added Value Unit:
PHYSICS ASSIGNMENT**

Course Assessment:(100 marks)

The Course Assessment will be a two-section Question Paper (20 marks multiple choice and 60 marks extended written paper) and an Assignment which will require learners to research a topical issue (20 marks)

| Spanish | |
|--|--|
| National 4 | National 5 |
| Units: UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGES Receptive skills – listening and reading in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture USING LANGUAGES Productive skills – talking and writing in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture | |
| Added Value Unit: The Assignment will require learners to investigate and report on a Spanish language film with an oral presentation and questions | Course Assessment: (100 marks) TWO QUESTION PAPERS + PERFORMANCE Paper 1: reading (30 marks) and writing (20 marks) Paper 2: listening (20 marks). Performance (30 marks): a presentation in Spanish followed by questions (internally assessed in accordance with SQA guidelines). |

Useful websites:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/NPF/nationals-in-a-nutshell/>

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/59033.html>

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45625.3728.html>

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65008.html>

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Parents_Leaflet.pdf

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp>