

HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher English

ENGLISH
LANGUAGES

CfE
HIGHER

2
UNITS

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
CREATION AND PRODUCTION

+
COURSE
ASSESSMENT

PORTFOLIO + TWO QUESTION PAPERS



Skills

Learners will be able to:

- listen, talk, read and write, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- understand, analyse and evaluate texts, including Scottish texts, as appropriate to purpose and audience in the contexts of literature, language and media
- create and produce texts, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- apply knowledge and understanding of language



Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- use different media for learning and communication
- understand how language works
- use language to communicate ideas and information in English
- think creatively and critically
- appreciate a wide range of literature and texts
- develop detailed and complex language skills



Assessment

- To gain Higher English, learners must pass the two Units and the Course Assessment (Portfolio and two Question Papers for 100 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will assess each of the four language skills: reading, listening, writing and talking. The SQA has provided examples of Unit Assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment is a Portfolio (30 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 70 marks overall) which has two components (see below). These are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher English is graded from A to D or as No Award.



Paper 1

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation 1 hour 30 minutes, 30 marks

Two non-fiction pieces of writing are given, with questions

Specimen Paper

www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/EnglishReadingforUAESQPH.pdf

Paper 2

Critical Reading 1 hour 30 minutes, 40 marks

Section 1

Scottish Texts *prescribed at <http://tinyurl.com/qd8haf3>*

Section 2

Critical Essay

Different genres (prose, poetry, drama) must be chosen for Section 1 and Section 2

Specimen Paper

www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/EnglishCriticalReadingRedactedSQPH.pdf

Portfolio

Two written texts of no more than 1300 words, demonstrating the learner's ability to write in different genres, for different purposes **30 marks**



Progression Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher English: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47904.html

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf

Further Information for Parents and Learners Information on assessment, skills, progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

www.parentforumscotland.org



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