

HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher English

ENGLISH
LANGUAGES

HIGHER

2
UNITS

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
CREATION AND PRODUCTION

+
COURSE
ASSESSMENT

PORTFOLIO + QUESTION PAPER



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 Question Paper 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 45 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

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