

# HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Physics

PHYSICS  
SCIENCES

CfE  
HIGHER

4  
UNITS

OUR DYNAMIC UNIVERSE  
PARTICLES AND WAVES  
ELECTRICITY  
RESEARCHING PHYSICS

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER



## Skills

Learners will be able to:

- apply knowledge and understanding of physics
- understand the role of physics in scientific issues and relevant applications of physics, including the impact these could make in society and the environment
- develop scientific inquiry and investigative skills
- develop scientific analytical thinking skills, including scientific evaluation, in a physics context
- use technology, equipment and materials, safely, in practical scientific activities
- develop planning skills
- problem-solve in a physics context
- use scientific literacy to communicate ideas and issues and to make scientifically informed choices
- develop the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in physics



## Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- develop their interest in and understanding of the world
- engage in a wide range of investigative tasks and develop important skills to become creative, inventive and enterprising
- evaluate environmental and scientific issues, consider risk, and make informed decisions
- describe and interpret physical phenomena using mathematical skills
- practise scientific methods of investigation from which general relationships are derived and explored



## Assessment

- To gain Higher Physics, learners must pass the four Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper for 120 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
- 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 consists of an Assignment (20 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 130 marks) which is in two sections (see below). These are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Physics is graded from A to D or as No Award.



**Question Paper** Section 1: Multiple choice questions (20 marks) **2 hours 30 minutes**  
Section 2: Restricted and extended response questions (80 marks) **100 marks**

**Specimen Paper** [www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/PhysicsSQPH.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/PhysicsSQPH.pdf)

**Assignment** An investigation into a relevant physics topic, the findings of which **20 marks** are written up under timed conditions.



**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 Physics: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47916.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47916.html)

[Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile](#)

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://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](http://www.parentforumscotland.org)



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Forum of Scotland

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