

NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of English National 4

ENGLISH
LANGUAGES

NATIONAL
4

3

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

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ADDED
VALUE
UNIT

ADDED VALUE UNIT: ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT

What skills will my child develop?

- understanding, explaining, analysing and evaluating straightforward texts (language, literature and media) both orally and in writing
- creating, structuring and producing straightforward texts for different purposes
- using technology to communicate
- social and interpersonal skills
- identifying sources, selecting and using information
- planning, researching and decision-making
- effective questioning and reflection
- understanding how language works and applying language skills in different contexts
- communicating ideas, views, feelings and information orally and in writing with technical accuracy
- creative thinking

WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning by setting personal targets, reviewing and reflecting on progress and deciding next steps
- A blend of classroom approaches including whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- Collaborative learning: in groups or pairs to encourage team-working, relationship-building, the verbalisation of ideas; with learners in other curricular areas to reinforce and transfer skills
- Space for personalisation and choice: selecting texts and ways of showing evidence (presentation, e-document, critical essay); choice of Assignment topic
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy skills: selecting and assessing information, presenting findings; evaluating; debating; listening, reading, writing
- The Added Value Unit (Assignment) allows learners to choose a topic, research it and present their findings orally or in writing.

ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 4, learners must pass all Units including the Assignment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be digital or spoken presentations, posters, leaflets, extended writing, notes or podcasts. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- The Assignment will involve an oral presentation or an essay.

National 4 progresses onto National 5

For more detailed course information:

SQA: English National 4: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45672.html

Education Scotland: www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:

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