



**A guide for
for families and students**

**Preparing for the Practice Exam Diet
S4**



Practice Exam Support Guide

Dear Parent/ Carer,

This booklet will provide you with information and guidance you may require to support your child.

You will find guidance from each subject about the following:

***What learners will be working on between now and the January practice exams.**

***How learners can prepare for the prelim in January**

This year our Practice Exam Diet will take place between 8th January 2024 and 31st January 2024.

Exams will take place in the Gym/ Games Hall and will be supervised by our SQA invigilation team.

Pupils will be given an exam timetable at the end of November. This will allow them to plan and begin their revision. Supported Study will take place in various departments throughout December.

In December there will be an assembly for each year group. This will explain how the Practice Exam Diet will be run, rules and expectations of behavior and advice for pupils who are ill/ late amongst other important information. During Practice exams, pupils should be properly equipped for each exam, know where their exam takes place and must not talk to or distract other pupils. Mobile phones and smart watches (that can receive texts, calls or access the internet) are not permitted in the exam hall.

An individualised timetable will be issued to all pupils when they return in January. This will contain their seat number, all their exams and any additional time/ differing accommodation that the pupil is entitled to. Pupils must check these to ensure that their name is spelled correctly, their address is correct, and that all the exams they should be sitting are on it.

We recognize that the Practice Exam Diet can be a daunting experience for our young people. Lots of guidance, help and wellbeing advice are in place to support them during this time.





Practice Exam Support Guide

Timeline

Early Nov: Pupil Support discuss exam arrangements for pupils with entitlements

Early Nov: Learn to Learn S4 insert- help with revision, study techniques and dealing with stress.

Late Nov: Exam timetable issued

Late Nov: Learn to Learn S5 insert- help with revision, study techniques and dealing with stress.

Early Dec: Supported Study, Practice Exam Assembly for S4, S5 S6

Jan: Individualised timetables issued

Jan 8th- 31st: Practice Exam Diet

February- March- SQA internal Assessment deadlines. Supported Study

March SQA Exam Assembly. Individualised timetables issued. Guidance and exam support. Information about results day and Marking Reviews (post exam)

April 22nd-29th May SQA Exams (dates subject to change)



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Administration & IT

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**

- Paper 1: Assignment worth 70 marks – 3 hours (including a 15-minute break)**

- The assignment requires candidates to complete a series of tasks based around planning an event. This assessment covers the following areas of the course:

- Word processing/desktop publishing
 - Communication in Administration (Internet Research, PowerPoint, E-mail, E-Diary)
 - Theory

- Paper 2: Question Paper worth 50 marks – 2 hours**

- This assessment covers the following areas of the course:

- Spreadsheets
 - Database
 - Theory

Both papers are IT-based, closed-book assessments that will take place within the ICT department.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

- Candidates have completed the course. Most of the time remaining this term will focus on revision of Word Processing, Database, Presentation and Communication topics in preparation for the prelim and final assignment.
 - In addition, some time will be spent on revising theory topics with a focus on structuring answers appropriately for each command word. Theory topics will be assessed in the assignment and question paper.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

- ✓ Use resources on Teams to revise and make use of Past Paper questions to measure themselves against exam standard. The school also has a subscription to the Achieve website, which provides a wide range of revision notes, resources, and activities. Pupils should be able to register and log in to access these for free.
 - ✓ As well as the prelim in January, the final practical assignment will be undertaken in February/early March. These require practical skills in all application software and internet research. These should be given time as part of pupils' revision as well.
 - ✓ Ensure to revise all theory topics also, as these are assessed in both papers.
 - ✓ Supported study may be available at lunchtimes throughout December – make use of these drop-in sessions to help perfect your skills.



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Art & Design

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**

Question paper:

The question paper will consist of a booklet with 2 sections:

Section 1: Expressive

Candidates will answer Q1 and one other question from section 1.

Section 2: Design. Candidates will also answer Q7 and 1 other question from section 2.

The paper is worth 50 marks which makes up 20% of the overall grade. The exam will last 2 hours.

Practical exam: Candidates will have an entire day dedicated to working on the Expressive folio final, which should bring the expressive folio to completion.

Both the Expressive folio and Design folios are externally assessed components which comprises 80% of the exam. This must be submitted by March 15th for submission to the SQA.

- **Between now and the January prelim, pupils will be working on both folios and should be studying their chosen artists and designers at home, ensuring they fill in the information required to complete their study booklets.**
- **To prepare for their question paper, pupils should be practicing past papers accessed through Teams or through the SQA website. Other 'unseen questions' will be shared on Teams.**



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Biology

Format of the Practice Exam:

Paper 1: Section 1 contains multiple-choice questions and has 25 marks

Paper 2: Section 2 contains structured and extended response questions and has 75 marks

What will learners be working on between now and the January Prelim?

- Learners have covered Unit 3, Life on Earth and will continue to work through Unit 1 of the course, Cell Biology.
- The prelim will assess Units 1 & 3 of the N5 course. The question paper has two sections.
- Learners will continue to prepare for their prelim assessment by undertaking key area revision questions and homework exercises based on past papers.
- Learners undertake the practical assignment part of the course during October.
This is worth 20% of the overall award.
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How can learners prepare for the prelim in January?

- Learners should read over class notes covering Unit 3 Life on Earth and Unit 1 Cell Biology making their own revision materials – mind maps, flashcards (on paper or apps e.g. quizlet).
- Learners can also use the revision website “Achieve”; accessed by clicking the link below and creating an account or signing in if you've previously set up an account. [Achieve \(hashtag-learning.co.uk\)](https://hashtag-learning.co.uk). Pupils can get a code from their class teacher to access this if required.
- Marking schemes are provided for revision questions. Learners should make use of these in order to become familiar with the level of detail and terminology required.
- Regular problem-solving practice is essential, as this forms a large part of all assessments. A range of problem-solving questions are available on Teams with mark schemes. These assess a range of skills including analysing and processing data (making calculations), analysing and evaluating experimental design, suggesting improvements and suitable controls, drawing valid conclusions and presenting information (line or bar graphs).
- Once learners have thoroughly revised all of Unit 1 and 3, they should time themselves working through SQA past papers. They should use the marking instructions to check their answers to ensure that they are providing the detail required.



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- Summary notes, key area revision questions, and past papers are available online on class Teams.
- Additional revision questions and tests are available on Scholar and access to this is available via the Glow Launchpad.
- PowerPoints & recorded lessons for each key area are also available via the West OS app, also accessible from the Glow Launchpad.



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Business Management

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**
Paper 1: Written Question Paper worth 90 marks – 2 hours

There is an externally assessed component which comprises 25% of the exam. This must be submitted by the end of February to be submitted to the SQA.

What will learners be working on between now and the January Prelim?

- Learners have completed Understanding Business, Marketing and Operations. Finance and People have still to be completed; learners will have completed Finance and most of the People unit by the prelim.
- Learners will begin working on the Coursework Assignment which is worth 25% of the overall grade for National 5 Business Management. This will be sent to the SQA for marking in March 2024.

How can learners prepare for the prelim in January?

- ✓ Use the revision checklist handed out at the start of all units – this includes all the topics covered which learners must be prepared to be assessed on. These are also posted on class Teams pages.
- ✓ Revise using past paper questions and then check answers with SQA Marking Instructions. Past papers are available for free on the SQA website and are uploaded onto Class Teams. If a candidate would like some past papers printed, please feel free to ask a member of staff.
- ✓ Ensure that they meet all deadlines set for the Coursework Assignment.
- ✓ Use all resources in the class Teams including a command word help sheet, notes, past papers and marking instructions.
- ✓ The school also has a subscription to the Achieve website, which provides a wide range of revision notes, resources, and activities. Pupils should be able to register and log in to access these for free. Other great free online resources are – BBC Bitesize and Bright Red Digital Zone.



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Chemistry

Format of the Practice Exam:

Paper 1: Section 1 contains multiple-choice questions and has 25 marks

Paper 2: Section 2 contains structured and extended response questions and has 75 marks

What will learners be working on between now and the January Prelim?

- Learners have covered Unit 1, Chemical Changes and Structure and will continue to work through Unit 2 of the course – Nature's Chemistry.
- The prelim will assess Units 1 & 2 of the N5 course. The question paper has two sections.
- Learners will continue to prepare for their prelim assessment by undertaking key area revision questions, homework exercises based on past papers and Satchel One quizzes/Microsoft Form exercises.
- Learners will continue to work on improving calculations including calculations based on equations, titrations and energy calculations.
- Learners will continue to prepare for their prelim assessment by undertaking open-ended and revision questions on a regular basis.
- Learners undertake the practical assignment part of the course during December.
This is worth 20% of the overall award.

How can learners prepare for the prelim in January?

- Learners should read over class notes covering Unit 1 Chemical Changes and Structure and Unit 2 Nature's Chemistry making their own revision materials – mind maps, flashcards.
- They should make use of all available resources on their Chemistry class Microsoft Team and the School website. This includes class notes & summary notes for each key area and key area revision questions.
- Learners can also use the revision website "Achieve"; accessed by clicking the link below and creating an account or signing in if you've previously set up an account. [Achieve \(hashtag-learning.co.uk\)](https://hashtag-learning.co.uk). Pupils can get a code from their class teacher to access this if required.
- Regular problem-solving practice is essential as this forms a large part of all assessments. A range of problem-solving questions are available in the Chemistry Supplementary booklet (available from class teacher or on class Microsoft Team) These assess a range of skills including analysing and processing data (making calculations), analysing and evaluating experimental design, suggesting improvements and suitable controls, drawing valid conclusions and presenting information (line graphs).



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- Once learners have thoroughly revised all of unit 1 and 2, they should time themselves working through SQA past papers. They should use the marking instructions to check their answers to ensure that they are providing the details required. Past papers and marking instructions are available on the SQA website or using JAB chem which gives a bigger range of past papers and more detailed marking instructions.
- Learners should read through their class notes and complete key area past paper questions for Unit 1 and Unit 2 which is available on the school website <http://www.standrewspaisley.com/national-4-5-chemistry.html>



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Computing Science

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**

Paper 1: Question Paper worth 80 marks – 1 hour 30 minutes

There is an externally assessed component which comprises 33% of the exam. This must be submitted by the end of February to be submitted to the SQA.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

- Candidates have broadly completed the vast majority of the course, except the optional Database unit. This will be starting shortly after the October Break.
- Most of the time remaining this term will centre on Software Development, which will involve an assessment in this area.
- In addition, some time will be spent going over Systems and Web Topics in preparation for these topics appearing in the January prelim.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

- ✓ Revise using past paper questions and then check answers with SQA marking instructions. Past papers are available for free on the SQA website and are uploaded onto Class Teams. If a candidate would like any past papers printed, please feel free to ask a member of staff.
- ✓ Make use of all notes booklets for each topic which contain theory and questions to test knowledge.
- ✓ Ensure that they meet all deadlines set for the Coursework Assignment.
- ✓ Use all resources in the class Teams and complete all set assignments.
- ✓ The school also has a subscription to the Achieve website, which provides a wide range of revision notes, resources, and activities. Pupils should be able to register and log in to access these for free. Other great free online resources are – BBC Bitesize and Bright Red Digital Zone.



Practice Exam Support Guide

Design & Manufacture – N5

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**
Question Paper: 1hr 45 mins

For the final course award there are two externally assessed components, the Design Assignment which comprises 30% of the overall grade and the Question Paper which makes up 45% of the overall grade. There is also an internally assessed component; the Practical Model, contributing 25% towards the overall grade.

These must be completed, usually by April, to be submitted to the SQA.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**
Learners will continue to develop their practical skills through manufacturing in the workshop whilst also building upon their 'Materials and Manufacture' knowledge. They will also be introduced to the 'Design' unit which will prepare them for final design assignment.
- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**
Learners should use the Revision Topic List that will be issued to them by their teachers to direct their preparation at home for the practice exam. It is recommended that the online resources and SQA past papers should be used, with responses checked against the marking instructions. Pupils should be revising their own notes that they have compiled from class and reading over the relevant notes in the files section of Teams.



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 English

Format of the Practice Exam:

Paper 1: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (60 minutes)

In this part of the exam, learners are required to answer different types of RUAE questions on an article taken from a broadsheet newspaper. This component is worth 30 marks.

Paper 2: Critical Reading (90 minutes)

This part of the exam is split into two parts. Firstly, learners will answer different types of textual analysis questions based upon a Scottish Text that they have studied in class. Secondly, pupils will complete a critical essay based on a different text that they have studied in class. This component is worth 40 marks.

External assessment:

The externally assessed component of the National 5 course is a folio piece which comprises 30% of the total mark for the course. This must be submitted to the SQA by the end of February 2024. Learners are required to independently complete an essay of no more than 1000 words and can choose to write a Discursive, Personal-reflective or Imaginative piece.

What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?

Learners will continue to consolidate the work they have been learning in class in both the Scottish Set Text element and the Critical Essay component. Learners will also continue to refine their RUAE skills by revising question types and completing practice papers in class. Learners should also ensure that they have submitted the final draft of their folio to their class teacher by the beginning of December.

How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?

Learners should be reading over the notes and handouts that they have been using in class focusing on all components of the exam. Class notes and materials will also be available for learners to access on class Teams pages.

Learners can revise and consolidate their own notes by creating mind-maps, notes or flashcards to help them retain key analysis, evaluation and quotations to support the Critical Essay and Scottish Set Text elements of the exam. Learners should also be regularly completing practice critical essays and practice textual analysis tasks.

Learners should be revising the different strategies required for the wide range of RUAE question types that they will encounter in the exam as well as regularly engaging with high-quality pieces of journalism.

Learners should reflect on the feedback that they have received throughout the year and ensure that they are taking steps to make the improvements suggested by their teacher.

Learners should be engaging with past paper questions available on the SQA website to ensure they are aware of what to expect in each paper and how best to respond. It would be useful at this stage of the year to be attempting past paper questions under timed conditions.

Learners are also free to reach out to their teacher via email or Teams if they require any additional advice, guidance or support.



Practice Exam Support Guide

Health & Food Technology – N5

- **Format of the Practice exam**
Question Paper: 1 hour 50 minutes

For the final course award there are 2 assessed elements.

The question paper comprises 50% of the exam and the assignment comprises 50 %.

The assignment briefs, set by the SQA, will have a food and health or a consumer focus and candidates will use skills to investigate the issue and develop a food product to meet the needs of the brief. Learners complete most of the assignment in class, under direct supervisions of the class teacher, in the allocated time.

Candidates may carry out investigations and research out with the learning and teaching setting. Assignments are printed and submitted to the SQA mid-March.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

Learners will complete unit assessments for 'Food Product Development' and 'Contemporary Food Issues' from now until December.

Learners will start the assignment in December.

Learners will revise over course content for three units in preparation for the practice exam Question Paper.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

Learners should use SQA past paper questions and the corresponding marking instructions to check responses. Pupils should be revising their own notes that they have compiled in their jotters and workbooks. Class teachers will also issue revision notes for learners to use. Learners should use the revision materials/PowerPoints uploaded on Microsoft Teams by their teachers to help them to prepare for practice exam.



Practice Exam Support Guide

Geography National 5

Format of the Practice Exam:

Paper: 80 Marks

Duration: 2 Hours 20 Mins

The Paper is split into three sections and each section. The options for our candidates to complete for each section are shown below.

SECTION 1 — PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS — 30 marks

Attempt Question 1

THEN attempt Questions 3 to 7.

SECTION 2 — HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

SECTION 3 — GLOBAL ISSUES — 20 marks

Attempt any TWO of the following.

Question 14 — Climate change

Question 18 — Tourism

There is an externally assessed component which comprises 20% of the exam. This must be submitted by the end of March to be submitted to the SQA.

What will learners be learning between now and the Practice Exam in January?

- Coasts
- Urban Developed World: Case study Glasgow
- Weather
- Begin Assignment

How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?

- Continue to do the homework set which provides practice of exam questions with support on how to achieve full marks.
- Make revision cards using booklets for all key content in the exam.
- Look over Practice Exam guide.
- Use retrieval techniques to revise.
- Complete timed questions at home:
 - 3 marks = 4.5 minutes
 - 4 marks = 6 minutes
 - 6 marks = 9 minutes
 - 8 marks = 12 minutes
- Look over and recall the writing structure for all questions.
- Attend supported study when available.
- Look over content on Teams for any gaps in knowledge.
- Discuss any areas of concern with class teacher.
- Access Past Papers from the SQA website and practise these under timed conditions.



Practice Exam Support Guide

Graphic Communication – N5

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**
Question Paper: 2hrs

For the final course award there is an externally assessed component which comprises 33% of the exam. This must be completed usually by mid-March to be submitted to the SQA.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**
They will be continuing to develop the 3D modelling, Desk Top Publishing, and Sketching skills required to complete the Course Assessment Task, while developing their knowledge of all the theory aspects of the course. This will include learning how to tackle exam-style questions and putting the theory into practise
- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**
Pupils are always advised to attempt past paper questions as these are the best way to prepare for the Question Paper. Just remember that you will see questions that you don't yet know how to answer, but you will by the time your *final* exam comes around.
Pupils should be revising their own notes that they have compiled on Class Notebook (on Teams) and reading over the relevant notes in the files section of Teams.



Practice Exam Support Guide

History National 5

Format of the Practice Exam:

Paper: 80 marks (45 Knowledge and Understanding marks & 35 Enquiry Skills marks).

Duration: 2hrs 20minutes

The Paper is split into three sections and each section has both Knowledge and Understanding and Enquiry Skills questions. The options for our candidates to complete for each section are shown below.

SECTION 1 – SCOTTISH CONTEXTS – 25, 26 or 29 marks

Part E: The Era of the Great War, 1900-1928

SECTION 2 – BRITISH CONTEXTS – 25, 26 or 29 marks

Part C: The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770-1807

SECTION 3 – EUROPEAN AND WORLD CONTEXTS – 25, 26 or 29 marks

Part G: Free at Last? Civil Rights in the USA, 1918-1968

There is an externally assessed component (Added Value Assignment) which comprises **20%** of the exam. **This will be completed in school under exam conditions to be submitted to the SQA for marking.**

What will learners be learning between now and the Practice Exam in January?

- All 6 'Enquiry Skills' question types: **How Fully, Evaluate Usefulness, Compare, Describe, Explain and 9-mark essay question.**
- Finishing 'The Atlantic Slave Trade' topic and moving on to 'Free at Last'.
- How to complete their Added Value Assignment.

How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?

- Practise all skills question type using past papers.
- Break down all the course contents down by section and create condensed revision resources to aid knowledge recall.
- Use retrieval revision techniques.
- Practice exam style answers under exam conditions. Time their work.
 - **Comparison:** 6 minutes
 - **Describe:** 6 minutes
 - **Evaluate the Usefulness:** 7.5 minutes
 - **Explain:** 9 minutes
 - **How Fully:** 9 minutes
 - **9-marker:** 13.5 minutes
- Access Past Papers from the SQA website and practise these under timed conditions.



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Mathematics (4B1, 4B2, 4B3, 4B4, 5B5, 5B6 and 5A2)

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**

Paper 1: 1 hour (Non-calculator)

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes (Calculator)

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

- Quadratics; Volumes; Triangle Formulae; Pythagoras' Theorem including Pythagoras in the Circle and Statistics – These are the topics that will be taught between now and the January prelim.
- Fractions (Numerical); Surds; Indices; Multiplying out Brackets; Solving Equations and Inequations; Changing the Subject of a Formula; Percentages; Function Notation; Factorising; Straight Line and Simultaneous Equations – These are the topics taught earlier in the course that will also be assessed in the January prelim.
- Learners will continue to prepare for their prelim assessment by undertaking past paper questions in class.
- Learners will be trained to mark their solutions in class to help pupils develop an understanding of SQA Standards, common mistakes and misconceptions.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

- Learners should focus on past papers, practice papers and all the revision materials which are available on the national5maths.co.uk website.
- They should also make use of the support that is available within the department either in class or by posting questions onto their class Teams.
- They should also be making excellent use of the revision resources on the school website and Teams in particular the video lessons from the following;

<https://www.youtube.com/@mrgrahammaths555/playlists>;

https://www.larberthigh.com/departments/maths_and_computing/mathematics/flipped_learning.html .

The teachers in the Mathematics Department believe that if you regularly practise and put in the required amount of time and effort, then anyone can achieve success in Numeracy and Mathematics. Possibly the best and most crucial advice that we can give is to start revising NOW! National 5 Maths is a challenging and demanding course and the concepts taught should be continually revisited. Mathematics is a subject where PRACTISING QUESTIONS, not just reading your notes, is the key to success. Practising these questions takes time and the best way to ensure you have this time is to start early – don't leave it to the night before your practice or final exam!



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Mathematics (4B5, 5B7, 5B8, 5B9 and 5A3)

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**

Paper 1: 1 hour (Non-calculator)

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes (Calculator)

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

- Similar Shapes, Simultaneous Equations and Statistics – These are the topics that will be taught between now and the January prelim.
- Scientific Notation, Fractions (Numerical), Multiplying out Brackets, Percentages, Factorising, Volume, Solving Equations and Inequations, Surds, Indices, Arcs and Sectors, Function Notation, Changing the subject of a formula and Straight Line – These are the topics taught earlier in the course that will also be assessed in the January prelim.
- Learners will continue to prepare for their prelim assessment by undertaking past paper questions in class.
- Learners will be trained to mark their solutions in class to help pupils develop an understanding of SQA Standards, common mistakes and misconceptions.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

- Learners should focus on past papers, practice papers and all the revision materials which are available on the national5maths.co.uk website.
- They should also make use of the support that is available within the department either in class or by posting questions onto their class Teams.
- They should also be making excellent use of the revision resources on the school website and Teams in particular the video lessons from the following;

<https://www.youtube.com/@mrgrahamaths555/playlists>;

https://www.larberthigh.com/departments/maths_and_computing/mathematics/flipped_learning.html.

The teachers in the Mathematics Department believe that if you regularly practise and put in the required amount of time and effort, then anyone can achieve success in Numeracy and Mathematics. Possibly the best and most crucial advice that we can give is to start revising NOW! National 5 Maths is a challenging and demanding course and the concepts taught should be continually revisited. Mathematics is a subject where PRACTISING QUESTIONS, not just reading your notes, is the key to success. Practising these questions takes time and the best way to ensure you have this time is to start early – don't leave it to the night before your practice or final exam!



Practice Exam Support Guide

Modern Studies National 5

Format of the Practice Exam:

Paper: 80 marks (50 Knowledge and Understanding Marks & 30 Enquiry Skills marks).

Duration: 2hours 20minutes

The paper is split into three sections and each section has an Enquiry Skill question attached to it which is worth 10 marks. The options for our candidates to complete for each section are shown below.

SECTION 1 - DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM – 26 or 28 marks

Part A: Democracy in Scotland

Question 7 (Option Choice)

SECTION 2 – SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM – 26 or 28 marks

PART D: Crime and the Law

Question 14 (Conclusion)

SECTION 3 – INTERNATIONAL ISSUES – 26 or 28 marks

Part E: World Powers

Question 21 (Support & Oppose)

There is an externally assessed component (Added Value Assignment) which comprises **20%** of the exam. **This will be completed in school under exam conditions, and will be submitted to the SQA for marking.**

What will learners be learning between now and the Practice Exam in January?

- Complete the second topic on the USA.
- Be taught how to answer Conclusion questions (final enquiry skill question).
- Taught some content from their third topic on Democracy in Scotland (the rest will be completed after the Practice Exam).
- How to complete their Added Value Assignment.

How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?

- Ensure they have revision notes made for their Crime & the Law content, USA content and Democracy in Scotland content.
- Review these revision notes on a regular basis to build on content recall.
- Practice completing exam style answers under exam conditions. Pupils should time their work:
 - **Enquiry Skills Questions:** 17.5minutes
 - **8KU:** 14 minutes
 - **6KU:** 10.5 minutes



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○ **4KU:** 7 minutes

- Look over and recall the writing structure for all Enquiry Skills questions (Support & Oppose, Options Choice., Conclusions).
- Attend supported study when available.
- Look over content on Teams for any gaps in knowledge.
- Discuss any areas of concern with class teacher.
- Use retrieval techniques to revise.
- Access past papers from the SQA website and practise these under timed conditions.



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Music

Format of the Practice Exam:

Question Paper: Understanding Music listening paper (35%)

Practical Performance: ***This will take place in December – the final practical exam is mid Feb - end of March.*** Pupils should prepare around 6 minutes 30, of an 8 minute performing programme across two instruments (minimum of 2 pieces per instrument at Grade 3 standard) (50%)

There is an externally assessed component (**Composition Assignment & Review**) which comprises 15% of the exam. This must be submitted by the end of Feb to be submitted to the SQA.

The overall grade for the practice exam will exclude the assignment.

What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?

- Learners will continue to develop their understanding of music through the Classical Unit and revision of the Scottish Unit covered in S3.
- Learners will confirm their full performing programmes and continue improving:
 - *melodic/rhythmic accuracy
 - *fluency
 - *stylistic performance (tone, dynamics, articulation)
- Learners will continue to develop their compositions (minimum of 1 minute) and write a composition review outlining their compositional process and evaluating their work. **Composition (20 marks) Review (10 marks)**

How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?

- Learners should regularly practise their instruments (out with class time). Monday to Thursday pupils may use the Music Department after school to access instruments (once pre-agreed with their music teacher). Where possible pupils may borrow instruments over the weekend for home practise.
- Pupils who receive instrumental lessons in school or at Saturday Music Centre should ensure they attend regularly.
- Learners should revise the Baroque Unit, Classical Unit & Scottish Unit through accessing the PowerPoints in the files section of the class TEAM.
- Learners should consolidate their knowledge of music literacy through completion of homework tasks.
- Links to additional revision resources will be posted in the class TEAM – useful websites include:
 - * <https://mymusiconline.co.uk/>
 - * <https://ataea.co.uk/>
 - * <https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk/>
 - * <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects>



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Free weekly Supported Study sessions are provided online by e-Sgoil. Registration for these classes can be accessed here:

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1761343784710308326>

- Learners can access their compositions at home using <https://st-andrews-academy.sites.noteflight.com/> or <https://www.soundtrap.com/>



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Music Technology

Format of the Practice Exam:

Question Paper: Understanding Music listening paper (30%)

Project: 1 project to be completed by the December holiday. The project includes completing the logbook with the plan, diary and evaluation and exporting the audio/video file. The quality of this project will be taken into account when considering target and working grades.

Learners have 2 projects to complete, in different contexts. The second project will be completed after the December break and both projects will be externally assessed by SQA. These projects are worth 70% of the overall grade. Both projects must be complete by the end of February to be submitted to the SQA.

The overall grade for the Practice Exam will exclude the 2nd project.

What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?

- Learners will continue to develop their understanding of music through listening to music from the 20th and 21st century. This will also include developing their knowledge of the features and functions of music technology hardware and software and how they are used.
- They will continue to learn about technological developments and the impact on the recording industry. Learners will also learn about the importance of intellectual property and copyright and how this affects today's musicians.
- Learners will continue to build skills in using music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio.
- They will continue the planning, implementing and evaluating of their second project, working to apply their knowledge of music technology in creative ways.

How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?

- Learners should revise the understanding music topics of 1900s onwards through accessing the PowerPoints in the files section of the class TEAM and other revision materials on TEAMS/and or their Class Notebook.
- Learners should consolidate their knowledge of technological developments through tasks in class and given as homework.
- Links to additional revision resources will be posted in the class TEAM – useful websites include:
 - * <https://ataea.co.uk/>
 - * <https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk/>
 - * <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects>
 - * <https://www.youtube.com/>
- Learners can access their projects and logbooks at home to work on using their personal OneDrive, <https://www.reaper.fm/> and <https://www.soundtrap.com/musicmakers>



Practice Exam Support Guide

Physical Education National 5

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**

There is no practice exam for the National course but there is a one-off performance. This will be completed prior to the exam diet.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

Learners will be working towards completion of their portfolio and outcomes assessments. The questions targeted will vary between classes. Learners will also build towards the first of their one-off performances.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

Learners are encouraged to attend extra-curricular clubs and teams to enhance their performance in activities.

Materials will also be available through their class Teams page as well as being able to access BBC bitesize and SATPE websites.

They will also be able to attend supported study sessions when available.



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Physics

Format of the Practice Exam:

Paper 1: Section 1 contains multiple-choice questions and has 25 marks

Paper 2: Section 2 contains structured and extended response questions and has 110 marks

What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?

- Learners have covered Waves, Dynamics, Electricity and will continue to work through Properties of Matter and Radiation before the practice exam.
- Pupils will revise for and sit class tests in Properties of Matter and Radiation before the Christmas break.
- The practice exam will assess all the topics of the N5 course above. The question paper has two sections.
- Learners will continue to prepare for their Practice Exam assessment by regularly completing questions on all topics covered to date and homework exercises based on past papers.
- Learners will continue to work on improving exam skills such as calculations, drawing and analysing graphs, open-ended questions etc.
- Learners undertake the practical assignment part of the course during January / February. **This is worth 20% of the overall award**

How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?

- Learners should read over class notes covering all material covered in the practice exam making their own revision materials – mind maps, flashcards.
- Where available, they should make use of all available resources on individual class Teams. This can include class & summary notes, homeworks, specific unit revision questions, past papers.
- Powerpoints & recorded lessons for each key area are also available via the West OS app. Learners can also use the revision website “Achieve”; accessed by clicking the link below and creating an account or signing in if you've previously set up an account. [Achieve \(hashtag-learning.co.uk\)](https://achievelearning.co.uk). Pupils can get a code from their class teacher to access this if required.
- Materials are also available on the St Andrew's Physics revision Team (code gue2btX) as well as the school website.
- Pupils should time themselves working through SQA past papers. They should use the marking instructions to check their answers to ensure that they are providing the detail required.
- Pupils can ask for help from their own class teachers as well as any other Physics teacher in the department.



Practice Exam Support Guide

Practical Woodwork – N5

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**
Question Paper: 1hr

The final course award for National 5 Practical Woodwork comprises of an internally assessed practical model and the externally assessed final exam.

The practical model is worth 70 marks, making up 70% of the final course award. This element of the course is completed during class time and is usually finished by mid-March before being internally marked and moderated within the school.

The question paper is completed during the SQA exam diet and is worth 60 marks, making up the remaining 30% of the final course award.

This is the first year since 2019 that National 5 Practical Woodwork has had a written exam – this element of the course had been removed during the pandemic but has now been re-introduced.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

Learners will continue to develop their practical woodworking skills by manufacturing practice models and producing practice joints in the workshop. They will continue to develop and consolidate their woodwork theory knowledge and problem solving skills during theory-based lessons focusing on wood types, workshop machinery and safety, hand tools and woodworking techniques.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

Learners should use the revision materials issued on Microsoft Teams by their teachers to direct their preparation at home for the practice exam. It is recommended that the online resources and SQA past papers should be used, with responses checked against the marking instructions. Pupils should be revising their own notes that they have compiled from class and reading over the relevant notes in the files section of Teams.



Practice Exam Support Guide

Practical Cookery – N5

Format of the Practice Exam:

Assignment: 1 hour 30 minutes

Practical Activity: 2 hrs 30 mins practical exam (Added time for set up and clean up)

Question Paper: 1 hour

National 5 Practical Cookery has 3 separate elements that are assessed.

The assignment, which is 13% of the exam, is the planning stage and must be completed before the practical activity can take place. The final assignments are sent to SQA for marking.

The practical activity is an internally assessed component which comprises 62% of the exam. This is usually completed by end of March. Marks for the final practical activity are submitted to the SQA.

The question paper comprises of 25% of the exam.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

Learners will finish all unit assessments by Christmas.

Learners will practice dishes in class for the practice exam which will comprise of a starter, main course and dessert.

Learners will complete the assignment and practical activity for the practice exam before Christmas.

In January, learners will revise over course content to prepare for the written question paper during the practice exam diet.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

Learners should use SQA past paper questions and the corresponding marking instructions to check responses. Pupils should be revising their own notes that they have compiled in their jotters and workbooks. Class teachers will issue revision notes for learners to use. Learners can practice practical cookery skills at home using a bank of recipes provided by the class teacher.



Practice Exam Support Guide

Practical Cake Craft – N5

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**
Component 1: Question Paper
Component 2: Assignment
Component 3: Practical Activity

Component 2 and component 3 are inter-related and will be assessed using one activity. Candidates will carry out one task — designing, planning, making, finishing and evaluating a cake — which will provide evidence for both components.

The practical activity is an internally assessed component which comprises 53% of the exam. The assignment is 22% of the exam. Components 2 and 3 are usually completed by the end of March. Marks for the practical activity are to be submitted to the SQA. The assignments are sent to SQA for marking. The question paper comprises of 25% of the exam.

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

From October to December learners will be undertaking the practical activity and assignment for the practice exam. They will work simultaneously through both components. The brief is 'Design and make a Christmas/celebration cake.' The practice exam will mirror the final exam in terms of skills and ability.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

Learners should use SQA past paper questions and the corresponding marking instructions to check responses. Pupils should be revising their own notes that they have compiled in their jotters and A3 paper.

Learners are regularly offered sugar paste to take home to allow them to practice any skills covered in class at home. Where possible learners should watch videos on the 7 practical cake decorating skills they are assessed on. The class teacher will share these links on teams. Learners are welcome to borrow equipment from the department which will help them practice skills at home.



Practice Exam Support Guide

National 5 Spanish

- **Format of the Practice Exam:**

Paper 1: Reading and Writing (1 hr 30 mins)

Paper 2: Listening (30 mins approx.)

- **What will learners be working on between now and the January Practice Exam?**

The skills tested in Spanish are Reading, Listening, Talking and Writing. Learners will complete the Culture and Learning topics for which they are given a booklet that they can use both in class and at home. The booklets contain all of the talking and writing questions we will work through at the front as well as various reading and listening activities. All past papers relating to the topic can be found towards the back of the booklet. The sound files for the listening tasks are on the class Team. In terms of writing, pupils will complete the final draft of their Assignment which will be submitted to SQA in March and counts for 12.5% of their overall final mark. Pupils will also prepare their job application for the writing prelim in January. Pupils will receive a booklet which will help them prepare for this both in class and at home.

- **How can learners prepare for the Practice Exam in January?**

Pupils should ensure that they complete as many of the past papers at the back of the booklets as possible. They should also ensure that they meet all homework deadlines, particularly for writing so that they can learn material off by heart for the practice exam and final exam.



Practice Exam Support Guide

BE HERE

BE KIND

BE YOU

BELONG

BE
SUCCESSFUL

BE
SUPPORTED

Our Values are:

FAITH

RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

LOVE AND COMPASSION

EQUALITY AND TOLERANCE

KINDNESS AND HONESTY