

Dalziel High School



CfE Assessment Guide for Pupils and Parents

curriculum for excellence





Why are new qualifications needed?

The new National Qualifications have been developed to support Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) which introduced a new way of learning to secondary schools and colleges in 2010.

SQA has designed the new qualifications, with the interests of the learner at heart. They will help young people demonstrate the knowledge and skills they've developed at school or college and enable them to prepare for further learning, training and employment.

The new, simplified format of the qualifications will also be easier for learners, parents and prospective employers to understand.

How will they be assessed?

National 4 - courses will be marked and assessed by teachers in school. Subject information later in this booklet will help you find out more about how we will manage internal assessment. SQA will check assessments to ensure that assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

National 5 - National 5 courses will also include units that are assessed and marked by teachers. Course assessments will continue to be externally marked by SQA or, where appropriate, internally assessed by the school.

The Course assessment will normally be carried out using one or two assessment methods from seven possible types:

- Assignment
- case study
- practical activity
- performance
- portfolio
- project
- question paper/test

Subject Information

- **Administration and IT**
- **Art & Design**
- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics**
- **Business Management**
- **Computing Science**
- **Design & Manufacture**
- **Drama**
- **English**
- **Geography**
- **Graphic Communication**
- **Health & Food Technology**
- **History**
- **Hospitality**
- **Maths**
- **Media**
- **Modern Languages**
- **Modern Studies**
- **Music**
- **PE**

Example: **N5 Administration and IT**

- Study 3 units and pass all unit assessments (Administrative Practices, IT Solutions for Administrators and Communication in Administration).
- Pupils will complete an assessment in class which will be sent to SQA for external marking worth 100 marks.
- No final exam

Example: **N4 Administration and IT**

To gain National 4, learners must pass all Units and Value Added Unit.

- Study 3 units and pass unit assessments (Administrative Practices, IT Solutions for Administrators and Communication in Administration).
- Value Added Unit involving a practical based assignment relating to organising and supporting small scale events.

Example: **N5 Art & Design**

Study 3 main areas – Expressive Activity, Design Activity and Critical Studies.

- Study and pass 2 Units within each activity area: (assessment graded on an internal assessment pass/fail basis and will be subject to external verification by the SQA). These units become the basis for:
 - Expressive Portfolio - Pupils should be able to analyse the factors influencing artists and art practice and produce creative development ideas for expressive artwork. This is externally assessed and is worth 80 marks (40%).
Final outcome will be produced under examination conditions
 - Design Portfolio - Pupils should be able to analyse the factors influencing designers and design practice and be able to produce creative design ideas and development work for a design brief. This is externally assessed and is worth 80 marks (40%).
 - Question Paper - For both areas of Design and Expressive, there will be a written examination involving demonstrating a knowledge of both expressive and design practice and analysis of Art and Design practice as a whole. This is externally assessed and is worth 40 marks (20%).
- The 3 combined areas are worth 200 marks in total.

Example: **N4 Art & Design**

Study 3 main areas – Expressive Activity, Design Activity and an Added Value Practical Activity. The 3 combined areas are internally assessed on a pass/fail and will be subject to external verification by the SQA.

- Expressive Activity - Pupils should be able to describe the things that have influenced and inspired artists and their work and produce creative ideas for expressive artwork. Assessment graded on an internal assessment pass/fail basis

- Design Activity - Pupils should be able to describe how things have inspired and influenced designers and their work and produce creative designs and development work from a design brief. Assessment graded on an internal assessment pass/fail basis.
- Added Value Unit –
Outcome 1: Expressive - pupils should produce a piece of expressive art in response to a theme or stimuli. This final outcome will be completed under examination conditions. This unit is internally assessed.
Outcome 2: Design – pupils should produce a piece of design work in response to a brief. This unit is internally assessed.

Example: **N5 Biology, Chemistry, Physics**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments
- Final External examination (2 hours) (20 marks of objective questions & 60 marks of written questions)
- Report (60 – 100 words – Pupils choose an aspect of the subject to investigate), (pass / fail but can resubmit) (2 for biology)
- Assignment – Research topic. (20 marks) – sent to SQA for marking.
- Experimental Investigation – pass / fail (must pass can resubmit)
- Final examination and Assignment are externally assessed. The rest are internal.
- All pupils will do added value unit.

Example: **N4 Biology, Chemistry, Physics**

- Study three units and pass internally assessed unit assessments. Allowed one resit.
- No external examination
- Report (40 – 60 words) – (pass / fail but can re-submit) (2 for biology)
- Added Value Unit – (Research topic - Pupils choose an aspect of the subject to investigate) - pass / fail (Internally assessed - can resubmit)
- Experimental Investigation – pass / fail (must pass, can resubmit)
- All of the above is internally assessed.

Example: **N5 Business Management**

- Study 3 units and pass unit assessments (Understanding Business, Management of People and Finance and Marketing and Operations)
- Examination 1 hour 30 minutes
- Exam 70 marks – Section 1 - 30 marks and Section 2 - 40 marks - all questions compulsory.
- The course assignment will require pupils to apply their research, decision making and communication skills by producing a proposal to improve the effectiveness of a

small to medium size business. Pupils complete the final proposal in one hour under exam conditions

- Course assignment worth 30 marks and will contribute to 30% of final exam

Example: **N4 Business**

- Study 2 units and pass unit assessments (Business in Action and Influences on Business)
- Value Added Unit involving researching one aspect of a small business and use their findings to prepare and communicate a simple business proposal

Example: **N5 Computing Science**

- 2 Units – Information Systems Design and Development, Software Design and Development and a Computing Science Assignment.
- Exam is 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 90 marks. (60% of final grade)
- The Assignment which is done during class time covers material from both the 2 units of work is worth 60 marks. (40% of final grade)

Example: **N4 Computing Science**

- 2 Units – Information Systems Design and Development, Software Design and Development and an Added Value Unit.
- No external exam, it is all internally assessed.
- The pupils will be asked to complete a series of classroom based practical assessments and their mark will be given based on their performance on these.
- The pupils will be given the opportunity to re-sit any outcomes they may fail in the first place.

Example: **N5 Design & Manufacture**

- Pupils study and pass 2 units (Design, Materials & Manufacture)
- 4 practical unit assessment tasks
- Course Assessment - Design Assignment is worth 60%
- Final Examination is worth 40% (1 hour 30 mins)

Example: **N4 Design & Manufacture**

- Pupils study and pass 3 units (Design, Materials & Manufacture, Added Value Unit: Design Assignment)
- 4 practical unit assessment tasks
- Course Assessment - Design Assignment is worth 100%
- No Final Examination

Example: **N5 Drama**

Pupils study and pass 2 units concluding with a performance exam and question paper.

- Drama Skills Unit – Pupils are required to explore and analyse drama skills using a variety of stimuli and be able to use a variety of acting skills to portray their character. They will analyse the effects of social and cultural differences that have influenced their drama.
- Production Skills Unit – Pupils are required to analyse a range of production skills and incorporate these into a production this could include lighting, sound, costume, make-up and set design.
- **ADDED VALUE** The pupils' performance exam (March-May) and is externally assessed by a visiting examiner. Pupils are required to create and present a production. This accounts for 60% of the overall grade including preparation for performance.
- The question paper is conducted under exam conditions and is 40% of the overall exam in May.

Example: **N4 Drama**

- Drama Skills Unit – Pupils are required to explore drama skills including responding to a stimulus, developing a character and contributing to the drama process.
- Production Skill Unit – Pupils are required to explore a production skills and generate this into a presentation.
- **ADDED VALUE:** Pupils are required to prepare, participate in and reflect on a small scale performance in a selected role for example acting, lighting, sound and costume etc.

Example: **N5 English**

- Pupils must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Writing Portfolio and Exam) Both of these are marked by the SQA and will be graded A to D.
- Course Assessment - the Writing Portfolio worth 30 marks (30%) - consists of 2 pieces of writing, one of which will be broadly creative with the other piece being broadly discursive. Each essay should be no more than 1,000 words.
- The Question Paper – (Exam): This will consist of a close reading paper and a critical essay paper. The critical essay paper will include a compulsory set text

question on Scottish texts being studied in class as well as an unseen critical essay on other texts studied. This paper is worth 70% of the marks.

- Course content includes outcomes on Writing, Listening, Reading and Talking

Example: **N4 English**

- Pupils must pass all Units including the Added Value Assignment which tests Writing, Reading, Listening and Talk combined. The Assignment will take the form of an extended piece of writing which should be between 700-800 words and should result from research, note-taking, drafting and discussion. Pupils must also respond to oral questions about their chosen topic.
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school with no external exam.
- Pupils will be required to have evidence of learning which will show their progress through the Units. Profiles and assessment sheets will provide this.
- Course content includes outcomes on Writing, Listening, Reading and Talking.

Example: **N5 Geography**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Physical Environment, Human Environment and Global Issues)
- Examination now 1 hour and 30 minutes (Intermediate 2 was 2 hours).
- Exam 60 marks (Intermediate 2 was 80 marks).
- Pupils investigate an issue and do a one hour write up report under exam conditions. This is sent to the SQA for external marking. Investigation worth 20 marks which accounts for 25% of the final exam.

Example: **N4 Geography**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Physical Environment, Human Environment and Global Issues)
- Added Value Investigation on a Geographical issue. This assignment is internally assessed as a pass or a fail. Pupils will choose a topic (with the advice of their teacher), collect evidence, evaluate sources, describe issues and present findings).
- Pupils will only be allowed one attempt at reassessment of the Added Value Investigation.

Example: **N5 Graphic Communication**

- Study two units and pass unit assessments (2D Graphics and 3D and Pictorial Graphics)
- 5 Practical unit assessment tasks
- Course Assessment - Graphic Assignment is worth 50%
- Final Examination is worth 50% (1 hour 30 minutes)

Example: **N4 Graphic Communication**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (2D Graphics and 3D & Pictorial Graphics, plus Added Value Unit – Graphic Assignment)
- 5 Practical unit assessment tasks
- Course Assessment - Graphic Assignment is worth 1000%
- No Final Examination

Example: **N5 History**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Scottish: The Era of the Great War, 1910-1928, The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770-1807 and European and World: Hitler and Nazi Germany, 1919-1939)
- Examination now 1 hour and 30 minutes (Intermediate 2 was 1 hour 45 minutes).
- Exam 60 marks (Intermediate 2 was 50 marks).
- Pupils investigate an issue and do a one hour write up report under exam conditions. This is sent to the SQA for external marking.
Investigation worth 20 marks which accounts for 25% of the final exam.

Example: **N4 History**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Scottish: The Era of the Great War, 1910-1928, The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770-1807 and European and World: Hitler and Nazi Germany, 1919-1939)
- Added Value Investigation on a Historical issue. This assignment is internally assessed as a pass or a fail. Pupils will choose a topic (with the advice of their teacher), collect evidence, evaluate sources, describe issues and present findings).
- Pupils will only be allowed one attempt at reassessment of the Added Value Investigation.

Example: **N5 Health and Food Technology**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Food for Health, Food Product Development and Contemporary Food Issues)
- Assignment. Set by SQA. Successful completion of an Assignment to assess the application of knowledge, understanding and skills from across the units through a problem- solving approach demonstrating skills and knowledge learned during the course. The assignment will have 50% of the total mark available.
- Examination (1 hour and 30 minutes) The question paper will be set and marked by SQA. The question paper will have 50% of the total mark available.

Example: **N4 Health and Food Technology**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Food for Health, Food Product Development and Contemporary Food Issues)
- Added Value Unit (Internally Assessed) Successful completion of an Assignment demonstrating skills and knowledge learned during the course. The assignment task will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

Example: **N5 Hospitality**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Cookery Skills Techniques and Processes, Organisational Skills for Cooking, Understanding and Using Ingredients)
- Cookery Skills Techniques and Processes – Make a 2 course meal (set recipes)
- Organisational Skills for Cooking – select, plan, cost and evaluate a two course meal of their choice
- Understanding and Using Ingredients - Investigate healthy eating and sustainable ingredients. Adapt and cook recipes with & detailed garnishing/decoration.
- Final SQA Exam – Plan and cook a three course meal, set by SQA. (2 hours 30 minutes)

Example: **N4 Hospitality**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Cookery Skills Techniques and Processes, Organisational Skills for Cooking, Understanding and Using Ingredients)
- Cookery Skills Techniques and Processes – Make a 2 course meal (set recipes)
- Organisational Skills for Cooking – select, and produce a 2 course meal
Understanding and Using Ingredients - Investigate healthy eating and sustainable ingredients. Adapt and cook recipes with & appropriate garnishing/decoration.
- Final Assessment – Added Value Unit – Plan and cook a two course meal, set by SQA. (1 hour 30 minutes)

Example: **N5 Maths**

- Pupils must pass all three Units and the Course Assessment (Expressions and Formulae, Relationships and Applications)
- To achieve Mathematics National 5, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the course assessment
- The Course Assessment (i.e. the final exam which is externally marked.), which covers the added value of the course. This consists of two Question Papers (exams), Paper 1 (non-calculator) and Paper 2 (calculator).

- To achieve the fall back of National 4, pupils will have to have passed all 3 units at National 5 as well as the National 4 Added Value and either National 4 Numeracy or a Bridging Unit (this is still being decided by the SQA).

Example: **N4 Maths**

- Pupils must pass all three Units and the Course Assessment (Expressions and Formulae, Relationships, Numeracy and Added Value Unit :Mathematics Test)
- To achieve Mathematics National 4, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit.

Example: **N5 Media**

- Analysing Media Content - Learners will be required to provide evidence of the skills that are needed to analyse media content. Learners will demonstrate knowledge of the relevant media contexts, roles and key aspects of media literacy central to the detailed analysis of media content.
- Creating Media Content - Learners will be required to provide evidence of the skills and knowledge that are needed to plan and create media content, and evaluate production processes.
- Question Paper – This will consist of two sections – question paper and case study. The question paper (30% of total mark) will ask the learner to analyse a text they are familiar with. The case study (20% of total mark) gives the learner the opportunity to use the skills they have acquired by analysing an unseen text. Both elements will be externally assessed.
- Course Assignment – The purpose of this assignment is to assess the learner's ability to apply the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired throughout the course in a production of media content. The assignment counts for 50% of the total mark and will be externally assessed.

Example: **N4 Media**

- Analysing Media Content - The purpose of this Unit is to develop the skills needed to analyse media content in familiar contexts. This Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop basic knowledge of the concepts and terminology central to the simple but detailed analysis of media content.
- Creating Media Content - The purpose of this Unit is to develop the skills needed to create media content in familiar contexts. This Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop basic knowledge of media concepts and terminology central to creating simple but detailed media content.
- Added Value Unit: Media Assignment - The purpose of this Added Value Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to apply and integrate their skills in analysing and creating simple but detailed media content. Learners plan, create and evaluate a chosen topic that develops their own skills and personal interests.
- Pupils must pass all units to achieve a National 4 pass.

Example: **N5 Modern Languages**

- Overall context for all courses (citizenship, society, learning, employability, culture)
- Pupils study two units and pass unit assessments – (Understanding Language : listening and reading outcomes) and (Using Language : talking and writing outcomes)
- Added value : Assignment : talking
- External Assessment : list/read/writing

Example: **N4 Modern Languages**

- Overall context for all courses (citizenship, society, learning, employability, culture)
- Pupils study three units and pass unit assessments – (Understanding Language : listening and reading outcomes), (Using Language : talking and writing outcomes) and (Added value : Assignment presentation)
- No External Assessment

Example: **N5 Modern Studies**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Democracy Scotland & UK, Social Issues ,International Issues)
- Examination now 1.5 hours (Intermediate was 2 hours).
- Exam 60 marks (Intermediate was 70 marks)
- Pupils investigate an issue and do a one hour write up report under exam conditions. Sent to SQA for external marking.
- Investigation worth 20 marks which accounts for 25% of final exam.

Example: **N4 Modern Studies**

- Study three units and pass unit assessments (Democracy Scotland & UK, Social Issues, International Issues)
- *Value Added* Investigation on a Modern Studies topic, this assignment is internally assessed as pass or fail (choose topic, collect evidence, evaluate sources, describe issue, detect bias, present findings).
- One reassessment, must meet standards without teacher rewriting for pupils.

Example: **N5 Music**

- Pupils must study and pass 3 units (Composing, Understanding, and Performing Skills) as well as the added value unit.
- **ADDED VALUE:**
 1. An **UNDERSTANDING MUSIC QUESTION** Paper which is externally assessed in the May Exams. This is worth 40% of the overall mark.

2. The PERFORMANCE exam which is externally assessed by a visiting examiner in February or March. Pupils will perform an 8 minute programme on two instruments. Performance must be a minimum of Grade 3 Associated Board Standard and must contain a minimum of 2 minutes on one instrument. This is 60% of the exam.

Example: **N4 Music**

- Pupils must study and pass 3 units (Composing, Understanding, and Performing Skills) as well as the added value unit.
- ADDED VALUE: Pupils are required to perform an 8 minute programme on two instruments in front of an 'audience'. Performance must be a minimum of Grade 2 Associated Board Standard and contain a minimum of 2 minutes on one instrument.

Example: **N5 PE**

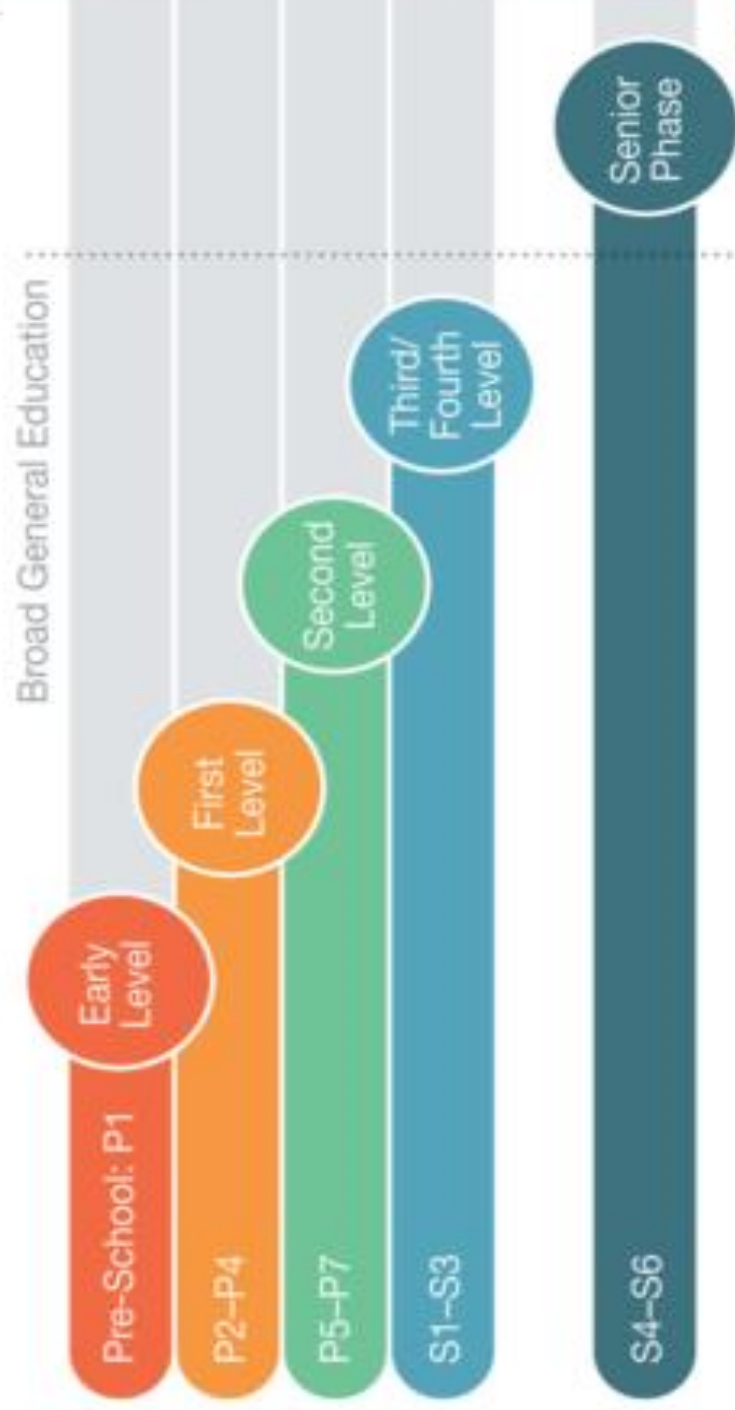
- Pupils must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (the Performance and the Portfolio)
- Units are assessed by the school
Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be videos of performance, peer and self-reflection, graphic organisers, cause and effect, Q charts, oral evidence through question/answer sessions, use of ICT
- The Course Assessment consists of the Performance and the Portfolio which will be marked according to SQA guidance and instructions and graded A to D.

Example: **N4 PE**

- Pupils must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (the Performance and the Portfolio)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') may be videos of performance, peer and self-reflection, graphic organisers, cause and effect, Q charts, oral evidence through question/answer sessions, use of ICT.
- The Added Value Unit consists of a Performance in an activity of the learner's choice.

Curriculum Levels

Curriculum levels are national levels to describe different stages of learning and progress. For most children the expectation is:



Further Information

- ▶ SQA website for N4 and N5 courses
- ▶ <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
- ▶ <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/NPF/national-in-a-nutshell>

