

NQ Study Skills in English

Course Components

- ▶ There are four components to both the National 5 and Higher course:
 - ▶ RUAE (Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation) - 30%
 - ▶ Scottish Set Text - 20%
 - ▶ Critical Essay - 20%
 - ▶ Portfolio - 30%
- ▶ The skills you need to develop for each component are the same for either level.

RUAE (Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation)

- ▶ This component is worth 30% of the overall grade at National 5 and Higher.
- ▶ This paper assesses skills in understanding, analysis of components of language and understanding of structure of writing.

RUAE (Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation) - how to study?

- ▶ It is **essential** to build a wide vocabulary by reading good quality journalism **at least two to three times a week**. Students can access good quality journalism on their iPads;
 - ▶ The Guardian(especially the ‘Comment is free’ section)
 - ▶ The Herald
 - ▶ The Scotsman
- ▶ Keeping a note of new vocabulary either in a file on your iPad or in a small jotter, note the definition/connotations etc.
- ▶ There are past papers available on the SQA website, you can use these to look at question types, revise and check your responses with the marking keys.
- ▶ Your teacher will be giving you a range of question specific resources that you can use with your revision too.

Scottish Set Text

- ▶ This component is worth 20% of the NQ award at both N5 and H.
- ▶ It utilises a piece of Scottish literature that has been studied in class, either prose or poetry. Some of the texts overlap both NQ levels. Texts being used in the department this year are:
 - ▶ **Poetry**
 - ▶ Norman MacCaig H/N5 (6 poems)
 - ▶ Liz Lochhead H only (6 poems)
 - ▶ Carol Ann Duffy H/N5 (6 poems)
 - ▶ **Prose**
 - ▶ Anne Donovan short stories N5 only (4 stories)
 - ▶ Iain Crichton Smith short stories H/N5 (4 stories)
 - ▶ *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson H/N5
- ▶ Students will get an excerpt from part of the prose or a section or full version of **one** of the poems.

Scottish Set Text - how to study?

- ▶ **How to study:**
- ▶ At this point in the term you might **not** have covered all of your Scottish Set Text novel, short stories or poems.
- ▶ Frequent revision of your selected text/poems. Once you have tackled a chapter/short story or poem in class, don't just leave it in your notes. Revisit what you have covered during your revision to help support your understanding.
- ▶ Use of flashcard/quotation banks to help retain evidence to answer questions
- ▶ Use of flashcards to support understanding of common elements within the novel, short stories or poems.
- ▶ Use of BBC Bitesize resources - the Scottish Set Text resources on Bitesize are particularly useful. They offer revision tasks and short self tests.

Critical Essay

- ▶ This component is worth 20% NQ award at both N5 and H level.
- ▶ It requires students to demonstrate their understanding of a previously studied piece of literature in response to an unseen critical essay question. Some texts being used in the department this session are;
- ▶ Prose
 - ▶ Animal Farm by George Orwell
 - ▶ The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
 - ▶ The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- ▶ Drama
 - ▶ Macbeth
 - ▶ Romeo and Juliet
- ▶ Poetry
 - ▶ Carol Ann Duffy, Norman MacCaig, Liz Lochhead
 - ▶ Dulce et Decorum Est by Wilfred Owen

Critical Essay - how to study?

- ▶ As with the Scottish Set Text element, it is unlikely that many classes have completed their study of their full CE text at this stage in the course. This doesn't mean that they can't be undertaking meaningful revision.
- ▶ Frequent revisiting content covered in class. Don't just rely on returning to certain elements of your text in class. Pull together your own summary or make a running note of the events of your novel or play.
- ▶ Collating quotations can start. Think about creating flashcards that are related by theme or character to help you track this through the text.
- ▶ Essay planning - mind mapping an essay plan is often a more time effective way of revising this component than writing out full essays. A 'thematic' mind map may be more beneficial than writing a full essay on a very specific question that you don't encounter in the prelim/exam.

Portfolio

- ▶ This component is worth 30% of the NQ award at both N5 and H level.
- ▶ Candidates are only required to submit one portfolio piece
- ▶ A broadly creative piece
 - ▶ Short story
 - ▶ Personal/reflective
 - ▶ Dramatic monologue
 - ▶ Poetry
- ▶ A broadly discursive piece
 - ▶ Persuasive
 - ▶ Argumentative
 - ▶ Discursive

Portfolio - how to study?

- ▶ All students should have their portfolios well underway as they are working towards the departmental deadlines for a first draft below:
 - ▶ National 5 - Week beginning 23rd October
 - ▶ Higher - Week beginning 6th November
- ▶ **Please note that class teachers may have earlier drafting deadlines.**
- ▶ In keeping with SQA guidance students will receive ONE fully marked draft back from their teacher. They can continue to submit pieces for verbal feedback.
- ▶ When redrafting, students should respond to feedback from staff as much as possible. Refine and rework your piece to improve as much as possible.
- ▶ Students can access good quality examples of portfolio pieces on www.understandingstandards.org.uk this is a bank of SQA assessed work with SQA marker commentaries.

What if my learner is studying National 4?

- ▶ The National 4 English course is broadly aligned with the components of National 5.
- ▶ Reading > candidates must undertake and pass an RUAЕ passage
- ▶ Writing > candidates must write a text of their own selection over 500 words
- ▶ Listening & talking > candidates must answer RUAЕ-style questions on a media text
- ▶ Therefore, all classes will follow the National 5 framework and evidence collation will take place throughout the year for National 4.