

History - National 4 and National 5

What are the aims of this course?

In History, learners develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. The course encourages pupils to develop an openness to new ideas and helps them to understand the world in which they live and the forces which have shaped the world today.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

Pupils will have to have followed History courses in S1 and S2 and should have displayed a genuine interest in the subject. The ability to write clearly is very important. At National 5, pupils will be required to learn their work, write detailed answers and to integrate historical sources. At National 4 clear written work and the ability to meet deadlines is very important. A disciplined approach to study will be very useful.

What content is included in this course?

Both National 4 and 5 follow the same mandatory course content, but will be assessed in different ways.

- Scottish:- Mary, Queen of Scots and the Reformation, 1542-1587
- British:- Changing Britain, 1760-1807
- European/World:- Hitler and Nazi Germany, 1919-1939

What skills will I develop?

The course further develops elements of knowledge and understanding of History, report writing and analytical skills This includes: -

- Developing and applying skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Commenting on the origin and content of historical sources.
- Commenting on the impact of historical developments and the factors which contributed to them.
- Making judgements to form a conclusion.
- Organising work in a logical and coherent manner.
- Researching and selecting relevant information to answer a specific question.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

A range of learning and teaching approaches are used including individual work, group work and cooperative activities. Pupils will have to make notes when required and research themes in history using computers, databases, documentary evidence and books. National 5 pupils will need to learn their work.

How will I be assessed?

National 4: Pupils sit a unit assessment on each of the three areas of study, plus an Added Value Unit where there is more freedom of choice. Pass or fail is dependent on pupils meeting the marking criteria. There is no examination. There are no grades, just Pass or Fail.

National 5:

- Pupils sit three unit assessments which are more demanding than those at National 4.
- They also sit an external examination on the course content which is marked by the SQA.
- They write a previously prepared Assessment Task of their own choice [essay] under test conditions with the help of one side of notes – marked by the SQA.

At National 5, success in the externally marked components will be the most important factor in establishing whether a pupil has passed. Pupils will be graded A – D, with A – C being a pass.

What are the homework requirements?

Pupils can expect to be set homework each week. They will be expected to meet these deadlines. This could include written tasks, learning or consolidation of knowledge and understanding and may also include pupils' carrying out research tasks as part of homework activities.

What are the possible progression routes?

This Course or its Units may provide progression to other qualifications in History or related areas, for example progression onto National 5, Higher and in the future Advance Higher. Higher and Advanced Higher History are highly respected qualifications by the universities because of the academic rigor they require.

Certification anticipated in:

The unit assessments will help staff to decide whether pupils sit National 4 or National 5. Those entered for National 5 must show that they can write developed answers with a good range of supporting evidence. They must also show that they have mastered higher order skills of document analysis and have the ability to learn their work.

To achieve the **National 4 History Course**, pupils must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit. The course is worth a total of 24 SCQF Credit points, made up from three end of unit assessments and a pass in the Added Value Unit.

To achieve the **National 5 History Course**, pupils must pass all of the require Units, an external examination and the externally assessed Assessment Task. This is in line with National 5 assessments in other subjects.

National 5 learners will also have produced a National 4 Value Added Unit as a fall back in case they do not pass National 5. The content is the same as the Assessment Task.