

## Science - National 4

### What are the aims of this course?

The purpose of the **National 4 Science** course is to develop learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for science in a range of contexts. The skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are integrated and developed throughout the Course. The relevance of science is highlighted by the study of the applications of science in everyday contexts.

### What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

Pupils will have to have attained the skills and knowledge required by one or more of the following or by equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

National 3 Science Course or relevant component Units; National 3 Biology; National 3 Chemistry, National 3 Environmental Science or National 3 Physics Courses.

### What content is included in this course?

The Course has four mandatory Units including an Added Value Unit. The course content units are composed of three units of study including **Applications of Science, Human Health and Fragile Earth**. Pupils will also engage in research and investigation tasks that contribute to their overall performance within the course.

### What skills will I develop?

The course further develops elements of knowledge and understanding of science, problem-solving and practical abilities. This includes:

- demonstrating knowledge and understanding of science by making statements, describing information, providing explanations
  - applying knowledge of science to familiar situations, interpreting information and solving problems
  - planning and safely carrying out experiments/investigations to illustrate effects
  - using information handling skills by selecting, presenting and processing information
- Independent learning and study skills are also developed throughout the course.

### 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. There is an emphasis on practical work, experimental design and data analysis.

### How will I be assessed?

All three units will be internally assessed. They can be assessed on an individual unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one unit. This will be on a pass/fail basis.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

### What are the homework requirements?

Pupils are set a minimum of **one homework exercise per key area**. 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 Science or related areas, for example progression onto National 4/5 Biology, Chemistry or Physics. It also provides progression onto further study, employment or training related to Science.

### Certification anticipated in:

To achieve the National 4 Science Course, learners 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.