

ADVANCED HIGHER ENGLISH ESSENTIAL INFO

What is the course content at Advanced Higher?

The Advanced Higher English course is a fantastic opportunity for pupils who have a real love of literature to explore this passion further.

The Advanced Higher English course is also valuable preparation for university as it requires pupils to be prepared to work independently towards extended deadlines.

Coursework constitutes 60% of the overall course award. This includes a folio piece – just one as at Higher and N5 – and a dissertation on a text or texts of the candidate's choosing.

The two exam elements (40%) are –

- Literary Study – a comparative essay of two texts by the same writer.
- Textual Analysis – unseen analysis task, with candidates given a choice of analysing poetry, prose fiction, prose non-fiction or drama.

Both test candidates' understanding, analysis and evaluation.

What apps and websites can I use to support my learning?

- [SQA - NQ - Past papers and marking instructions](#)
- [SQA - Understanding Standards: Advanced Higher](#)
- [Advanced Higher English Dissertations \(shetland.gov.uk\)](http://shetland.gov.uk)

Are there important dates of which I should be aware?

Dissertation

- SQA Uplift – April

Formal Assessments

- Textual Analysis – October
- Literary Study – January

Final Folio Submission

- Week before exam

How is the course assessed?

COMPONENT	DETAILS	LENGTH	MARKS	%
FINAL EXAM:	Literary Study – candidates typically study two texts by the same writer (or three poems) and write a comparison of certain aspects of these in an exam essay (choice of seven questions). Closed book.	1 hour 30 minutes	20	20%
	Textual Analysis – candidates are given a choice of four unseen short texts to produce a written response to, in answer to a given task. A less structured response required than for Literary Study.	1 hour 30 minutes	20	20%
COURSEWORK:	Folio of Writing Reduced in the past few years from a requirement for two pieces, to one. Pupils to submit a piece in any genre. Minimum word count is 1000 (this does not apply to poetry)	ONGOING (SQA UPLIFT ON DAY OF EXAM)	15	30% (folio score is doubled)
	Dissertation Candidates carry out an independent study of, and produce a dissertation on, an approved aspect or aspects of language or literature of 2500-3500 words. They are assigned a mentor.	ONGOING (SQA UPLIFT IN APRIL)	30	30%

What resources do I need?

Literary texts – physical/digital copies of longer texts.

Resources from lessons – Teams/OneNote will have what you need.

Class notes – ensure you keep these up to date, catching up if you are absent for any reason.

Dissertation mentor – you will be assigned to an English teacher.

Where can I find more information about coursework?

[Conditions of assessment in coursework](#)

sqa.org.ukAHCATEnglishProject.pdf (sqa.org.uk)

[Advanced Higher English Portfolio-writing assessment task](#)

sqa.org.uk

Tips for Success in Coursework

- It is *your responsibility* to contact your dissertation mentor, and to ensure that you attend any meetings agreed with them and meet any deadlines that are set.
- Don't leave coursework until the last minute – Experiment with different types or writing before deciding which folio piece to submit – this will allow you to play to your strengths and maximise your potential to score highly in this element.
- Use Understanding Standards materials to look at SQA marked examples of folio and dissertation to help you get a sense of how to be successful.
- **Avoid plagiarism/AI assistance at all costs!!**

Tips for Success in the Exam

- Know your texts inside out - ensure you have detailed notes about aspects such as plot, characterisation, setting, themes etc.
- Spend time with past papers and look for patterns recurring with essay questions.
- Practise planning essays, but don't write too many in preparation for Literary Study, as this can be an inefficient way of revising.
- Find quotes to learn, which can be used as evidence for multiple literary techniques/essay questions to cut down the amount you have to learn overall.
- For textual analysis, try and have a strategy going in of one or maybe two genres you might attempt – you won't have time to read all four extracts.
- Where there is a clear task, ensure you address this clearly in your response. If a task has several parts, cover these in balance.
- Ensure you cover the text consistently and in full.
- Make sure you unpack language examples fully and, in a technique-specific way e.g., for word choice, discuss connotations etc.