

# HIGHER ENGLISH ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

<p><b>What is the course content at Higher?</b></p> <p>The Higher English course is divided up into Analysis and Evaluation, and Creation and Production. All elements of the course are designed to complement each other. Candidates will learn to analyse fiction and non-fiction texts, which then develops their skills in creating fiction and non-fiction texts.</p> <p>There is a compulsory Scottish text element as part of the Critical Reading paper, but candidates will experience a range of genre of texts, with at least two from prose, poetry, drama and media.</p> <p>There is also a pass/fail spoken language element, which can usually be assessed using groupwork or class presentations.</p> <p>The course elements are similar to National 5, but there are some differences in content and marking</p>	<p><b>What apps and websites can I use to support my learning?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/English/higher">https://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/English/higher</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zqxhfg8">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zqxhfg8</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z4qkf4j/revision/1">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z4qkf4j/revision/1</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=English&amp;level=NH">https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=English&amp;level=NH</a></li> <li>• Additional resources on school website</li> </ul> <p><b>Are there important dates of which I should be aware?</b></p> <p><u>Coursework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First draft of folio piece - completed in class time in folio week (oct)</li> <li>• Redraft of folio piece, or first draft of a new piece in a second genre(optional), by just after Christmas break</li> <li>• Middle of March – final essay to be submitted in SQA template.</li> </ul> <p><u>Formal Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper 1 – RUAЕ – Oct</li> <li>• Paper 2 – Critical Reading – January</li> </ul>
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**How is the course assessed?**

COMPONENT	DETAILS	LENGTH	MARKS	%
FINAL EXAM:	<b>Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (RUAЕ)</b> Contains two unseen newspaper articles of around a page and half in length, a set of questions on the first passage (25 marks) testing their UAE skills, and a 5-mark comparison question on both passages	1 hour 30 minutes	30	30%
	<b>Critical Reading -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Set Text (20 marks) – 10 marks of analysis questions on a poem or extract from longer text + 10 mark commonality question</li> <li>• Critical Essay (20 marks) – a choice of three essay questions per genre, on a text studied in class</li> </ul>	<b>*NEW FOR 2026 EXTENDED BY 15 MINUTES*</b> 1 hour 45 minutes	40	40%
COURSEWORK:	<b>Folio of Writing</b> Reduced in the past few years from a requirement for two pieces, to one. Pupils to submit an essay which is either broadly discursive or broadly creative. Max word limit is 1300, rec. minimum of 1000.	ONGOING (SQA UPLIFT IN APRIL)	15	30% (Folio score X2)

<p><b>What resources do I need?</b></p> <p><b>Literary texts</b> – these could be poetry booklets (issued by faculty) or physical/digital copies of longer texts</p> <p><b>Resources from lessons</b> – Teams/OneNote should have everything you need</p> <p><b>Class notes</b> – ensure you keep these up to date, catching up if you are absent for any reason</p>	<p><b>Where can I find more information about the writing folio?</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Guidance_on_conditions_of_assessment_for_course_work.pdf">https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Guidance_on_conditions_of_assessment_for_course_work.pdf</a> - offers guidance about what is considered 'reasonable assistance'.</p> <p><a href="https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/h-cat-english.pdf">https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/h-cat-english.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/h-course-spec-english.pdf">https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/h-course-spec-english.pdf</a> - on pages 19 and 20, you can view the marking grids for folio, which are genre specific.</p>
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<p><b>Tips for Successful Revision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know your texts inside out -ensure you have detailed notes about aspects such as plot, characterisation, setting, themes etc. as well as any genre-specific aspects (e.g., for drama - staging, for media – camera shots etc.)</li> <li>• Spend time with past papers and look for patterns recurring with essay questions and 10-mark questions to help you prepare.</li> <li>• Produce mind-maps of commonalities and consider which quotes (textual evidence) you will need to support different questions.</li> <li>• In learning quotes for paper 2, try to learn quotes which are multi-purpose – can be used as evidence for more than one commonality or aspect of essay.</li> <li>• For critical essay prep, writing out lots of essays is inefficient, but you should practise planning.</li> <li>• Practise with RUAЕ past papers and revise recommended analysis structures.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tips for Success in the Exam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates are <i>not</i> marked down for spelling/grammar errors in RUAЕ and Scottish Text – this can cause some anxiety with dyslexic learners – don't fret about this in those exam elements, as that takes up time and headspace.</li> <li>• Use highlighters to pick out key words in questions, and examples in texts you are analysing – cuts down time when checking your answers against passages.</li> <li>• Read the whole RUAЕ passage 1 before you start the questions, then passage 2 before attempting 5-mark Q – allow at least 15 mins for this Q.</li> <li>• Cast your eye down the marks column before starting so you know where the higher tariff questions fall – improves pace/time management in exam.</li> <li>• Stick strictly to line references in RUAЕ and Set Text</li> <li>• Manage your time well – in Critical Reading, you should switch tasks at 45 minutes. It's better to finish the essay than the set text, if time is running out.</li> <li>• REMEMBER – at Higher you <i>don't</i> get marks for quoting, so make sure you match the no. of language examples you analyse, to the no. of marks in Q.</li> <li>• Pay close attention to how many marks are available in each question.</li> <li>• Critical Reading - only answer on the set text you have studied and write one essay in the correct genre category – should be a different genre to set text.</li> <li>• Use recommended bullet pointed structures for short response answers.</li> </ul>
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