

NATIONAL 5
ENGLISH

COURSE STRUCTURE

- Writing Folio (coursework) – 30%
- Exam – 70%

THE WRITING FOLIO

- **Writing Folio (submitted to the SQA for assessment) – 30%**
 - Discursive essay – 15%
 - Short Story / Reflective essay – 15%

FOLIO DATES – FIRST DRAFTS

- Folio essay 1 – First draft to class teacher no later than Monday 8th October
- Folio essay 2 – First draft to class teacher no later than Friday 23rd November

FINAL FOLIO DATES

- Both essays, on SQA template, to class teacher no later than:
 - Friday 15th February

WRITING FOLIO ADVICE

- Get first drafts written early.
- Read widely and steal ideas on style and content from good writers.
- Be prepared to redraft and rethink thoroughly.
- Plenty of credit is given for style.
 - Grab your reader at the start and finish strongly.
 - Vary your sentences.
 - Use strong vocabulary.
 - Build in metaphors (and symbolism in creative writing).

SUPPORT FOR WRITING

- The Folio must be the candidate's own work. Candidates can get advice and guidance from teachers or lecturers, but it is not acceptable for a teacher or lecturer (or any other person) to select a topic, to provide key ideas, to provide a structure or plan, to suggest specific wording, or to correct errors in spelling and/or punctuation for.
- Candidates must not copy material from print or electronic sources, and quotation from someone else's work, must be made clear.

THE EXAM

- Paper 1: UAE (Close Reading) – 30%
- Paper 2: Critical Reading (Literature) – 40%

PAPER 1: UAE (CLOSE READING)

- 1 hr
- 30% of final mark
- Prepare for this by doing regular reading of quality journalism and opinion pieces.
- There are also specific exam techniques to practise.
- Crucially, students must be able to spot whether they are showing their understanding (rephrasing), or analysis skills.

PAPER 2 – CRITICAL READING (LITERATURE)

- 1 hr 30 minutes
- 40% of final grade

- Scottish Literature: short questions on an extract which they will recognise – (20%)
- Critical Essay: write an essay in response to an unseen question – (20%)

CRITICAL READING

- For the Critical Reading paper, students must **know their texts** very well and have learned a wide range of quotations.
- They must also have **practised plenty of exam responses** under timed conditions.
- It is important to be able to discuss the **themes and ideas** in the text, not just what happens.

PERFORMANCE – SPOKEN LANGUAGE

- Teachers will assess speaking and listening skills on a pass/fail basis.
- Students can either:
 - Take part in a group discussion to which they contribute relevant ideas, opinions, or information, using detailed language. Candidates must take account of the contributions of others and stay focused on the topic or task.
 - Prepare and present a presentation. The presentation must be detailed in content, and must be structured in a clear and relevant way. Candidates must answer questions from the audience at some point in the presentation.

HOMework ADVICE

There is always homework:

- Reading and researching for the writing folio, and improving drafts;
- Doing secondary reading on the literature (Sparknotes, CliffsNotes etc);
- Updating or synthesising class notes on the literature;
- Reading the Guardian Opinion website...

GENERAL ADVICE, CONT...

And when it gets closer to the exam:

- Completing past papers in timed conditions;
- Marking friends' exam answers;
- Learning quotations from the literature;
- Practising turning ideas into stylish sentences for exam essays.