



Senior Phase Curriculum

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Aims of the Senior Phase

- ❖ The Senior Phase in Scottish secondary schools is from S4 to S6. The aim of the Senior Phase is to ensure that all pupils continue to develop as confident and responsible young people.

- ❖ Pupils embark on appropriate programmes of study in S4/5/6 in order to gain qualifications that:
 - reflect their academic potential
 - develop skills and knowledge
 - provide for progression within school
 - provide for progression beyond school

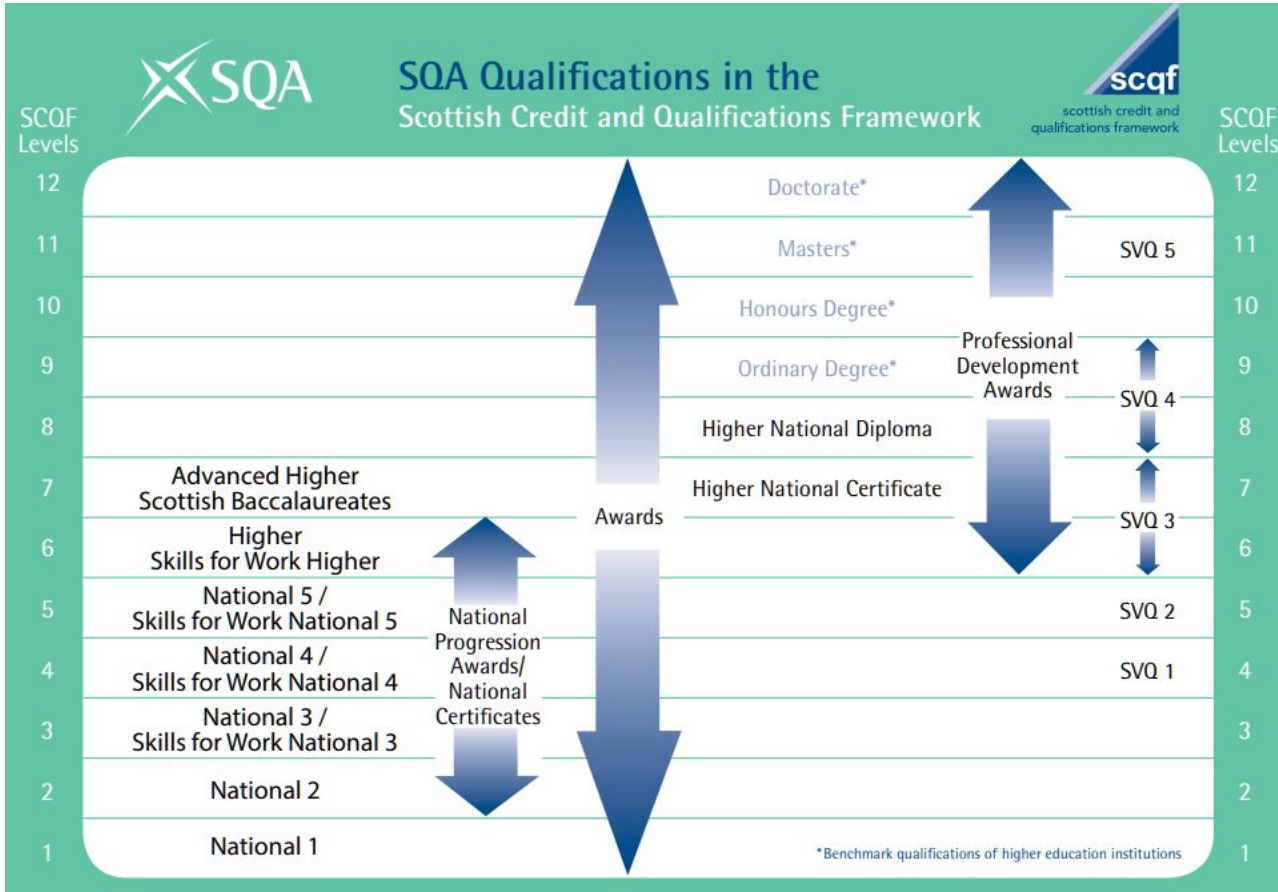


Senior Phase Entitlement

All young people in Scotland have an entitlement to a senior phase of education which:

- provides specialisation, depth and rigour
- prepares them well for achieving qualifications to the highest level of which they are capable
- continues to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work
- continues to provide a range of activities which develop the four capacities
- supports them to achieve a positive and sustained destination on leaving school

Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF)



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Ready Reckoner for SQA Qualifications in the SCQF

Customer Contact Centre 0345 279 1000 customer@sqa.org.uk

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) helps people to understand and compare different qualifications in Scotland.

It does this by using two measures:

Levels (1-12) show how complex the learning of a qualification is.

Credit points indicate the volume of learning required to achieve a qualification.

One SCQF credit point represents 10 notional learning hours.

SQA qualifications are developed using SCQF level and credit points. This information is shown on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate. The Ready Reckoner shows the level and credit points for SQA Units, Courses and Group Awards.

| Units | |
|--|--------------------|
| Type | SCQF credit points |
| Higher National Units SCQF levels 5-12 | 8 |
| National Units SCQF level 7 | 8 |
| National Units SCQF levels 1-6 | 6 |
| SVQ Units SCQF levels 4-12 | varies |

| National qualifications | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | SCQF level | SCQF credit points |
| Advanced Higher | 7 | 32 |
| | 6 | 24 |
| National 5 | 5 | 24 |
| National 4 | 4 | 24 |
| National 3 | 3 | 18 |
| National 2 | 2 | 18 |
| National 1 | 1 | 6 |

| Scottish Baccalaureates | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| SCQF level | SCQF credit points |
| 7 | 104 |

| Group Awards | | |
|--|------------|--------------------|
| | SCQF level | SCQF credit points |
| Higher National Diploma | 8 | 240 |
| Higher National Certificate | 7 | 96 |
| National Certificate | 4-6 | 72 |
| National Certificate | 2-3 | 54 |
| Awards ¹ | 1-12 | varies |
| Professional Development Awards ¹ | 6-12 | varies |
| National Progression Awards ¹ | 2-6 | varies |

| Scottish Vocational Qualifications ² | |
|---|------------|
| | SCQF level |
| SVQ 5 | 11 |
| SVQ 4 | 8-9 |
| SVQ 3 | 6-7 |
| SVQ 2 | 5 |
| SVQ 1 | 4 |

¹ These are flexible Group Awards. SCQF credit points will vary according to the number of credits that they are made up of.

² Please refer to SQA's website for information on SVQs. The allocation of SCQF credit points and levels to SVQs will be undertaken as and when they are revised.



www.scqf.org.uk

More information on the SCQF, and SQA's interactive ready reckoner, can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/scqf



Progression Pathways

The progression pathways within the Senior Phase are outlined below:

National Qualifications

National 4 » National 5

National 5 » Higher

Higher » Advanced Higher

Higher/Advanced Higher » University

Non-NQ Courses

Level 4 » Level 5

Level 5 » Level 6

Level 6 » college/apprenticeships/training

Pupils can select all subjects from either pathway or a mix of subjects across pathways.



Choosing subjects

- Ensure subjects link to a career plan – research what is required for Plan A / Plan B
- Consider skills and knowledge already developed
- Use tracking data/report
- Consider levels already achieved / likely to achieve
- How many subjects at Advanced Higher / Higher / National 5 / Level 5 / Level 6 combine to provide an appropriate level of academic challenge





S5 Curriculum

Timetable structure

- Five subjects - six periods per subject
- 1 period of Physical Education
- 1 period of PSHE
- Tutor every morning

Levels available

- National 5 (not as many subjects offered at N5 as in S4)
- Higher
- SCQF Level 5 / 6 courses

Recommended progression into Higher subjects

- 5 Highers - almost all National 5 at A/B grades
- 3+ Highers - almost all National 5 passes, some at A/B
- 1+ Highers - 1 or more National 5 pass



S6 Curriculum

Timetable structure

- Minimum of 4 subjects (or 3 Advanced Highers)
- 1 period of PSHE
- 1 Elective period
- Tutor every morning
- Up to 6 non-contact periods – study, volunteering, work experience

Levels available

- National 5 (not as many subjects offered at N5 as in S4)
- Higher
- Advanced Higher
- SCQF Level 5 / 6 courses

Recommended progression

- Achieve an A/B at Higher for progression into Advanced Higher
- 5 Highers at A/B >> 3 Advanced Highers
- Higher subjects can be 'crashed'



Additional Courses for S5/S6

Personal Finance (Level 5)

Cyber Security (Level 5/6)

Environmental Science (Higher)

Scientific Technologies (Level 6)

Scottish Studies (Level 5/6)

Advanced Higher Mathematics of Mechanics

SLC virtual offer - this year it is higher politics and higher psychology plus a broad range of advanced highers. It is subject to change each year.

Mental Health and Wellbeing (Level 6)

Exercise and Fitness (Level 6)

Laboratory Skills (National 5)

Practical Metalwork (National 5)

Sports Development (Level 5 / 6)

Detailed information on all courses available on school website

<http://strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk/making-choices-subject-booklets-for-session-2024-2025/>



Vocational Courses for S5/S6

Pupils can also consider vocational study alongside their school subjects:

GradU8 college programme – 1 day per week at South Lanarkshire college/ Glasgow colleges:

Hair and Barber, Construction, Health and Social Care, Early Education and Childcare, Make-up Artistry, Beauty, Hospitality, Engineering, Sport and Recreation, Uniformed and Emergency Services.

More information on GRADU8 is available on the following video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8-XDq8oWDHo&feature=youtu.be>

GradU8 Works programme – pupils will access a local work experience placement from September to Easter in an employment sector that is of interest. All placements will be risk assessed and have an allocated supervisor.

Foundation Apprenticeship - attendance is usually 2 afternoons over S5/S6 or 2 days in S6 at South Lanarkshire or Glasgow based colleges:

Accountancy, Business Skills, Children and Young People, Engineering (Civil and Mechanical), Engineering Systems, Creative Digital Media, Financial Services, Health and Food Science, ICT Hardware, ICT Software, Scientific Technologies, Social Services and Health Care.

Pupils can get more information on these courses by speaking to their Pupil Support (guidance) teacher who has a detailed brochure on all programmes listed above.



Wider Achievements

- Elective programmes and opportunities within school
- Extra-curricular activities / clubs out with school
- S6 Leadership roles
- Roles of responsibility / Pupil Councils
- Volunteering and other community based activities
- Work placement / Part-time Employment



Key Dates

- 28 Jan S4 Full Report to parents
- w/b 3 Feb S4 Assembly and choice sheet issued
- w/b 10 Feb S4 Pupil interviews with guidance teacher
- 24 Feb S4 into S5 Subject Choice form returned

- 13 Feb S5 Assembly and choice sheet issued
- w/b 24 Feb S5 Pupil interviews with guidance teacher begin
- 25 Feb S5 Full Report to parents
- 3 Mar S5 into S6 Subject Choice form returned

- 2 June New timetable starts for current S4 and S5 pupils



Supporting Pupils to Choose Subjects

If you or your child would like to discuss any issue with regard to their options, please contact the appropriate Pupil Support teacher. Pupils will have the opportunity to meet with their Pupil Support teacher to discuss subject choices.

The following websites should be familiar to pupils through PSHE and can help with the subject choices process:

Skills Development Scotland: <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/>

My World of Work websites: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

<http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents>

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/where-can-subject-choices-take-you>

UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/>

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The Senior Phase

Managing Transitions: Working Together

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STRATHAVEN LEARNING COMMUNITY

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