Higher English

# Course Rationale

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Your ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of your emotions, thinking, learning and sense of personal identity. You develop skills in listening, talking, reading and writing, which are essential for learning, life and work. You will also learn to use creative and critical thinking skills in order to produce ideas and arguments.

# Course Content and Assessment

**Component 1: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation: see below**

**Component 2: Critical Reading: see below**

**Component 3: Portfolio–writing**

The purpose of this portfolio–writing is to provide evidence of candidates’ skills in writing for two different purposes: one broadly creative, and one broadly discursive.

**Component 4: Performance – Spoken Language: internally assessed**

The purpose of this performance–spoken language is to provide evidence of the candidates’ skills in talking and listening. This performance, though not formally assessed by the SQA since 2020 may be reinstated this session in Higher English.

# COURSE ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

**Component 1: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation**

The purpose of this question paper is to assess candidates’ application of their reading skills in the challenging context of unseen material and a limited time.

* 30 marks (30% of the total mark) are awarded for applying reading skills in understanding, analysis and evaluation to questions on two passages.
* This question paper has two sections. Candidates are required to read and understand two unseen non-fiction texts. A series of questions will focus on their understanding, analysis and evaluation skills.

**Component 2: Critical Reading**

The purpose of this question paper is to assess the application of candidates’ critical reading skills and their knowledge and understanding of previously studied literary, media or language texts, including the work of at least one Scottish writer from the prescribed list.

* Section 1 Scottish texts- questions on the Scottish poet Carol Ann Duffy.
* Section 2 Critical essay- one essay question based on a short story, novel, play or film studied in class.

# Progression

Successful learners at Higher level can progress to Advanced Higher English in S6.

**Career Pathways**

Teaching Editorial Journalism

Administration Legal work The Arts