**ENGLISH HIGHER**

**CONTENT**

The Higher English Course aims to develop the ability of young people to understand and use sophisticated language impressively and with confidence. The course is similar in structure to the National 5 Course and includes the following mandatory Units and Assessments.

**INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS**

**Performance – Spoken Language.** The performance–spoken language assessment provides evidence of candidates’ skills in talking and listening. This performance, which is part of course assessment, is assessed on an achieved/not achieved basis. In this assessment candidates have to:

♦  Take part in a group discussion, or discussion-based activity, to which they contribute relevant ideas, opinions, or information, using detailed and complex language. Candidates must take account of the contributions of others and stay focused on the topic or task.

**EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS**

**FOLIO – 30%**: Over the course of the year, learners will produce a portfolio, comprising two pieces of writing: one broadly creative and the other broadly discursive (15 marks each). This is due for submission to the SQA in March.

**EXAM – 70%**

**Paper 1: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation** (30 marks): Questions on two non-fiction texts will test learners’ understanding, analysis and evaluation.

**Paper 2: Critical Reading** (This paper has two Sections, each worth 20 marks)

**Section A: Critical Essay.** Learners will answer one question and respond by writing an essay on a previously studied text.

**Section B: Scottish Texts.** Questions on an extract from a previously studied Scottish text will be answered by learners.

**HOMEWORK**

There is substantial homework. Focus will be on the Writing Folio, Unit revision and Close reading and essay-writing practice.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Students who achieve grades A-C at National 5 English will qualify for Higher. However, borderline pupils are advised to seek their teacher’s recommendation: Higher English is a very challenging course and is not necessarily suited to everyone who passes National 5.