

FRENCH, GAELIC GERMAN or SPANISH NATIONAL 4 and 5

What are the aims of this course?

National 4 and 5 aim to develop your skills in understanding and using the language, and in widening the range of topics with which you are familiar. In National 5 you will develop more independent skills in using the language and in tackling more complex texts. The course also aims to deepen your understanding of the lifestyle and culture of the countries where the language is spoken. Your progress in S4 will be the basis for deciding the right level for you.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

To continue into National 4 or 5 you will have studied the language in S3.

What content is included in this course?

The main themes are the same in both courses:

Society: includes relationships, modern media, healthy living

Learning: includes school, approaches to study, dealing with exam stress

Employability: includes jobs, training, further study, ambitions, qualities needed by employers

Culture: aspects of the countries where the language is spoken, travel

What skills will I develop?

Skills development is a major focus. You will strengthen your core language skills of

- reading
- listening
- talking
- writing

Language-learning also builds your skills in areas like

- communication
- self-expression
- self-confidence
- flexible thinking
- understanding of other cultures and ways of thinking

Employers find these skills extremely attractive, and they can be transferred over into other areas of study.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

You will use course booklets and textbooks and CDs which provide reading, grammar and listening work, plus specially developed materials to suit your needs. There will be individual, pairwork and group activities, plus Internet activities and resources to support your learning. You may use some of the Scholar on-line course. Films and Internet items will provide cultural insight.

How will I be assessed?

If you are aiming for a N4 qualification, you will be completing unit assessments as the course progresses in the 4 skills (reading, listening, speaking and writing). You will also need to complete an AVU (added value unit) which is a spoken presentation and a conversation.

For a N5 qualification, you will complete regular past papers to practise your listening, reading and writing skills ahead of your final exams. You will also complete a speaking exam (presentation and conversation about 8 minutes long). Finally, you must complete a writing assignment.

Whether you complete a N4 or a N5 qualification, you will be given regular feedback on your classwork and homework as well as tips and advice on how to improve further.

What are the homework requirements?

You will be expected regularly to look over and learn vocabulary introduced in class. You may be covering some of the course using the on-line Scholar course, which you can access at home. There will be regular written homework, and you will prepare for practice speakings, which will be very helpful in getting ready for the final exam. You will have learning to do in preparation for the writing and talking assessments. You will also be given advice on Internet activities which will support your progress.

What are the possible progression routes?

Pupils who successfully completed the Languages for Life and Work course in S3 could continue French to achieve National 3 or 4 in S4.

If you achieve Nat 4 in S4 you might be able to progress to Nat 5 in S5 or S6.

If you make good progress in National 5 you may be able to achieve Higher in S5 or S6. Alternatively, your advanced language-learning experience may make it easier for you to try a course in a new language in S5 or S6.