

Rationale for National 5 A/B Tests

As part of the National 5 assessment process, unit assessments are undertaken for each unit and pupils must pass these in order to gain an overall pass at National 5, as well as passing the final exam in May.

The structure for each subject is different and the timings of the unit assessments for each subject vary, as a result. So while the unit assessments give some indication of each pupil's progress at the end of a unit of work, they do not always give a clear picture of how well a pupil can be expected to do in the final exam. The questions in Unit Assessments are pitched at "C" (ie. Pass) level. A/B tests are designed to give clearer definition of progress in a subject to pupils, their parents and teaching staff.

These tests form an important part of the Course Choice process, as many subjects require an A or B pass at National 5 in order to progress to Higher. As the final N5 exam results are not available until August, these test results provide necessary information to make good decisions about courses of study for the following year.

These decisions need to be made in February to facilitate planning for next session.

The timetable for the National 5 A/B tests has been put together to give the pupils experience of sitting tests in the Hall under strict exam conditions, to try to ensure that there is as little conflict between subjects as possible, to cause as little disruption to ongoing learning and teaching of other subjects as possible, as well as the rationale given above.

Also included in the timetable are the timings for A/B tests undertaken during class time around this period, for your information. As I said earlier, requirements vary across subjects and some subjects do not need a written test at this stage and this information is also included.

Pupils will be made aware of the test times by their individual subject teachers, but this timetable is issued for your reference, to give you the opportunity to support your child's education at this important time.

Study Support Classes (as issued previously) are ongoing and are well attended, providing opportunities to revisit topics for which some pupils might require reinforcement or to fill gaps caused by absence and I would commend these to you.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact your child's guidance teacher or me.

Hugh Watson S4 Year Head
