

HIGHER ENGLISH INFORMATION

RIGOUR, ASPIRATION AND PERSEVERANCE



Article 29

The right to an education that develops your talents and abilities

WHAT WE EXPECT IN THE FACULTY?

- **RIGOUR** – IF IT IS WORTH DOING, THEN DO IT TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY
- **ASPIRATION** – ALWAYS TRY TO BE THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF
- **PERSEVERANCE** – NEVER GIVE UP ON YOURSELF, BECAUSE WE NEVER WILL

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY LEARNER

- One size does not fit all
- Communication
- All stakeholders involved
- Positive / Solution Focused
- Beyond the 'traditional route'



NATIONAL 5 RESULTS 24/25

Result	A	B	C	D	NA
(170 pupils) Percentage	84 (49%)	52 (31%)	17 (10%)	10 (6%)	7 (4%)

***This means that there was an 90% pass rate for N5 with 49% of our pupils achieving an A grade and 80% achieving an A or B grade. ***

National average for an A-C grade across Scotland is 78.4%

HIGHER RESULTS 24/25

Result	A	B	C	D	NA
(126 pupils) Percentage	35 (28%)	36 (29%)	32 (25%)	18 (14%)	5 (4%)

***This means that there was a 82% pass rate for Higher with 57% of our pupils achieving an A or B grade. ***
National average for an A-C grade across Scotland is 75.9%

S5 ENGLISH

- **WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?**
- **HIGHER**
- **NC COMMUNICATION AND LITERATURE**

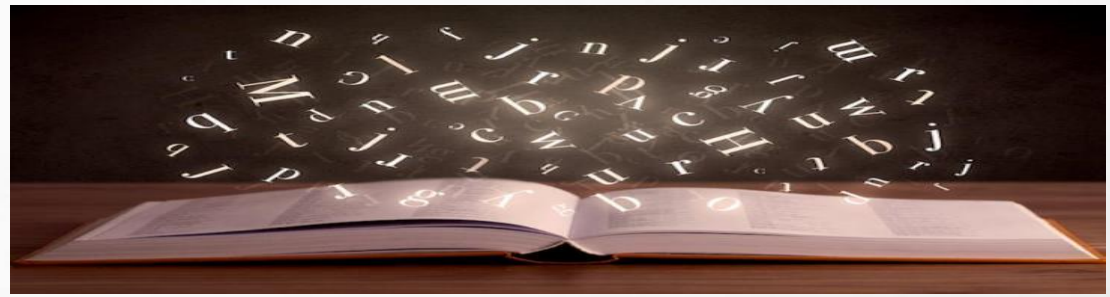


COURSE OUTLINE

- **RUAÉ (PAPER 1) – EXAM 30%**
- **CRITICAL READING (PAPER 2) – EXAM 40%**
(ESSAY/SCOTTISH SET TEXT)
- **FOLIO- EXTERNAL 30% (ONE ESSAY)**

RUAE – 1HR 30MINS

N5 – 1HR



- **RUAE stands for Reading, Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation.**
- **Pupils will be tested on their understanding of the passage, their analysis of language and evaluating how successful it has been in getting across the main ideas.**
- **The RUAE paper will consist of 2 non-fiction passages.**
- **They will both focus on the same topic but may express different views.**

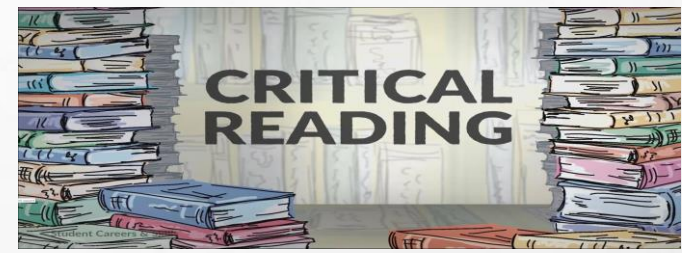
RUAЕ – 1HR 30MINS

N5 – 1HR



- The majority of the questions will focus on passage one. The final question will ask the candidate to consider both passages (5 marks).
- Pupils are encouraged to answer in bullet point form.
- The big difference from N5 is that there are no longer marks awarded for quotes or references (still need to go through that process).
- Higher average out of 30 = 15.8
- N5 average out of 30 = 15.7

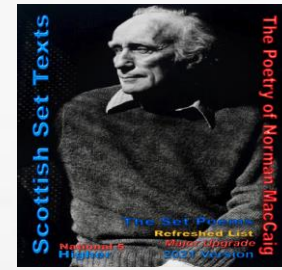
CRITICAL READING 1HR 30MINS



****CURRENTLY AWAITING RESULTS OF AN SQA CONSULTATION TO ADD AN EXTRA 15 MINS TO PAPER 2****

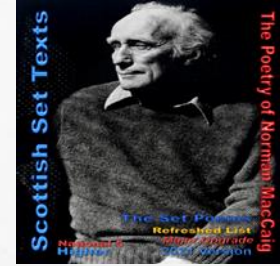
- This paper consists of two different sections – Scottish Set Text and Critical Essay
- Both sections are worth 20% each
- Candidates will spend roughly 45 mins on each section
- Time management is a key skill for this paper
- Higher average out of 40 = 22
- N5 average out of 40 = 27.6

SCOTTISH SET TEXT



- Section one is Scottish set text – a study of Scottish literature.
- The class teacher will have chosen one of the following options:
 - 6 poems
 - 3 short stories
 - A play
 - A novel.
- They will have detailed notes and annotations for each poem in their possession.
- They will receive one poem in the exam and the majority of questions will be based on this poem.

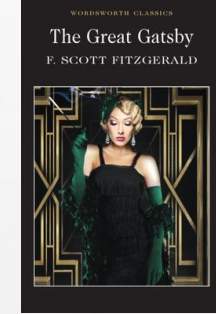
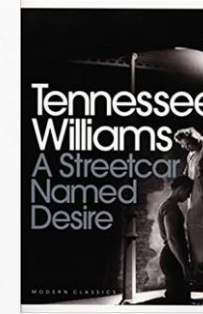
SCOTTISH SET TEXT



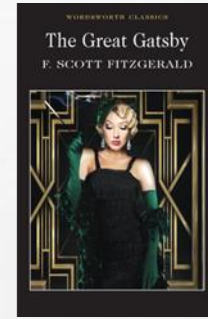
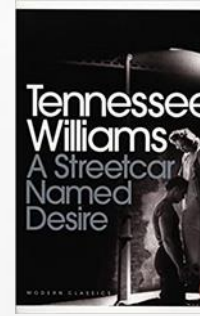
- The last question will always be worth 10 marks and it is the only time they must bring in evidence from the other poems. There is a set structure to answer this question and every pupil will have detailed notes explaining what is required.
- The big difference between N5 and Higher is that candidates will no longer receive marks for references or quotes. All available marks are based on analysis.

CRITICAL ESSAY

- Section two is the critical essay of the exam.
- Each candidate will study either a novel, play or short story. They will work through the text in detail and take notes on aspects like characterisation, theme, conflict etc They will also be given model examples of responses to the type of questions that arise in this section.
- Candidates will be asked to choose one question from various different sections of questions. They must answer the questions under the genre of text they studied e.g. If they studied a play, then they must answer one of the questions from the Drama section.



CRITICAL ESSAY



- Candidates will have roughly 45 mins to write this essay. It is important that candidates practice writing essays within this time frame (unless they are entitled to extra time). This will give them every chance of writing a detailed and thorough response in the time allocated.



- This is the coursework that is completed throughout the year and is usually submitted to the SQA before the Easter break to be marked.
- Candidates can select between a Discursive/Persuasive or Reflective/Creative genre for their piece. Candidates usually have to submit two pieces but the SQA have removed one piece this year in response to the impact of COVID.
- The class teacher can help each candidate plan their essay. The first draft will be written in class time with notes available. Staff will then feedback and mark one further draft of their work and provide support in how to improve their work.

FOLIO



- Please avoid any temptation to plagiarise. If the SQA suspect plagiarism has taken place you will be awarded zero for the folio.
- Avoid programmes like ChatGPT and Grammarly. If in doubt, leave it out!
- If staff believe that AI has been utilised in the production of your folio piece they will use appropriate tools to check the piece of writing.
- If it is the case that AI has been used the FH will contact home to alert parents/carers.
- All pupils need to sign a coversheet when submitting their work to the SQA. This officially declares that the work submitted is original.
- If the SQA suspect that AI has been used they will notify the school and an investigation will be conducted. If it is proven that the candidate has gained an unfair advantage, they will be awarded 0/30 for their folio.

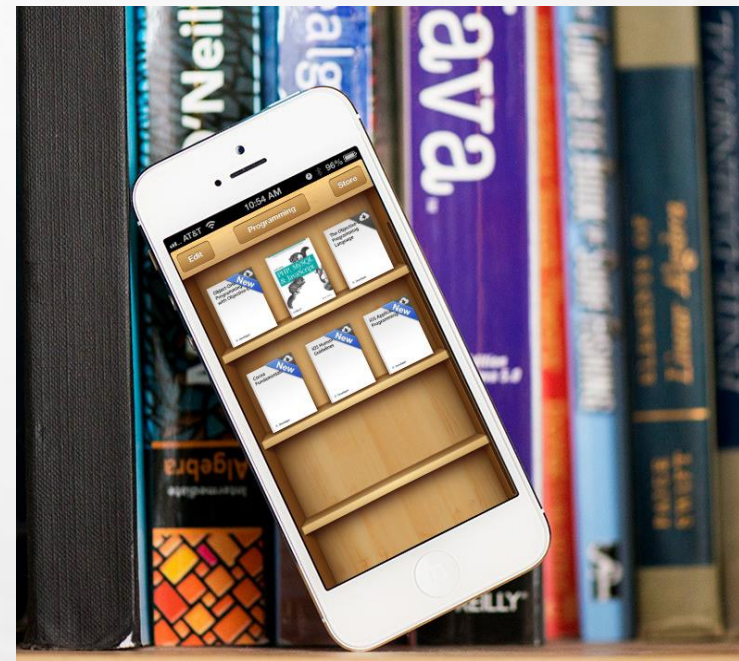
FOLIO



- The final piece should be no longer than 1,300 words. There is a 10% allowance above this, however we try to stick to the advertised word count as much as possible. There is no minimum word count but any piece that is less than 1,000 tends to be self-penalising in our experience.
- The essay will be marked out of 15 marks. Due to the changes, this mark will then be doubled to give the candidate a percentage out of 30.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?





ABOVE ALL READ

There really is no substitute for reading when it comes to advancing in English. Reading books develops learners' vocabularies, their imaginations, and their ability to understand complex notions.

Now there are more ways than ever to access books: Kindle, iPhone, iPad, Audible, BorrowBox are just a few.

INSPIRATION

T.V. shows and films have fantastic characters, settings, and dialogue. These can be inspiring for learners and can positively influence their imagination. You can talk about the plot, themes and characters with your child.



TAKE AN INTEREST



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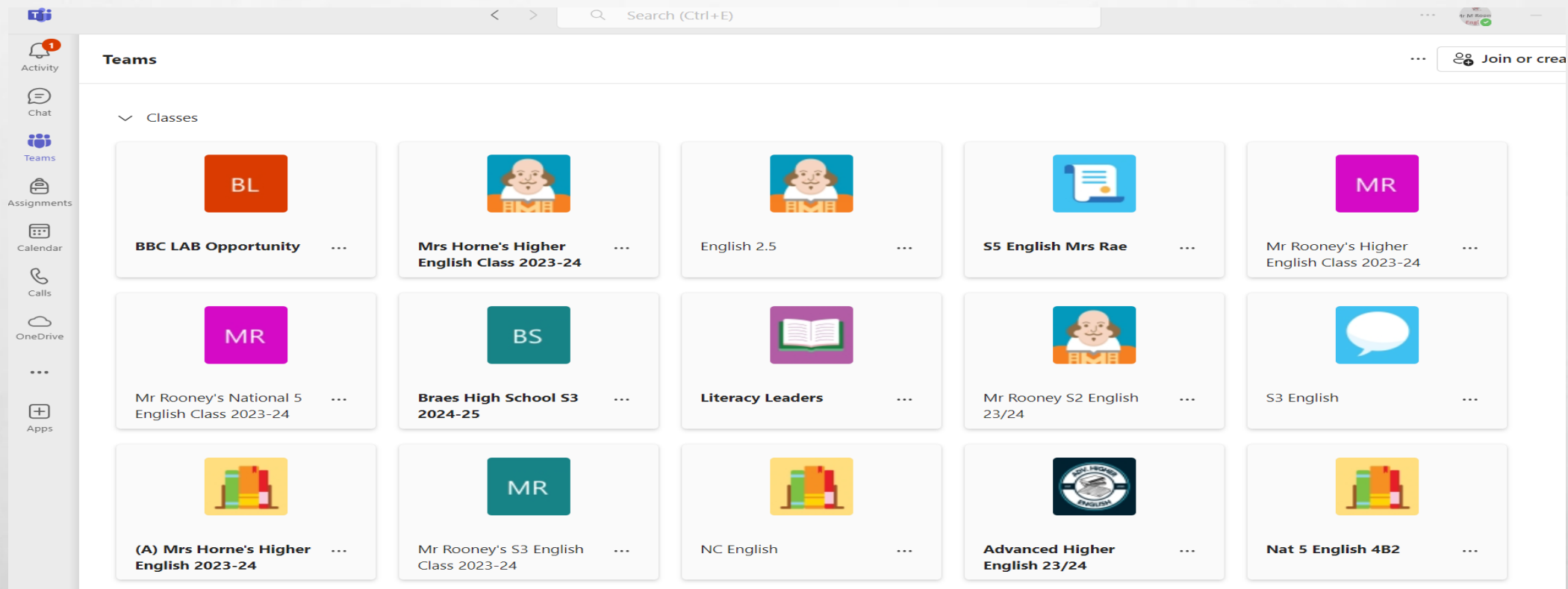
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Braes English & Media Faculty @braeseng-media.bsky.social · 13d
A huge welcome back to a new school year from the English and Media Faculty. We are so proud of the achievements of our senior pupils and their fantastic results from session 24/25. Rigour, aspiration and perseverance will always see you right in life! We hope you all have a productive first term!



TEAMS



FACULTY HELP AND RESOURCES

- **OPEN DOOR POLICY WITHIN THE FACULTY**
- **AFTER SCHOOL REVISION SESSIONS / STUDY SUPPORT
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON/STUDY CAMP/EASTER SCHOOL**
- **BLUESKY: @BRAESENG-MEDIA.BSKY.SOCIAL**
- **MARK.ROONEY@EDUCATION.FALKIRK.SCH.UK**