

Structure of the Curriculum in S4

In S4 pupils study seven courses. English and Mathematics are compulsory, but pupils and parents/carers choose the other five courses. **At least four of these courses must have been studied in S3.**

In addition to the seven subjects which will lead to SQA qualifications at the end of S4, all pupils study Physical Education for two periods per week and have two periods of Personal and Social Education.

While some pupils leave Queen Anne High School at the end of S4, most stay on for S5 and most of those stay on for S6. It is important that you think ahead when choosing your courses for S4. If you stay on for S5 then you will almost certainly continue with the same subjects but at a higher level.

Making Good Choices – Advice for Pupils

Making good choices as to which courses to follow and what level of qualification to aim for can be a stressful time for both pupils, parents and carers. However, by following some basic principles the process can be made much more straightforward for all concerned.

1. Give some thought about what you want to be doing in one, two, five and ten years' time. You don't necessarily need to be specific but at least narrow down your choices to a general area or two.
2. Research what qualifications you need and at what level to follow these ambitions. For colleges and universities, look at their official websites and/or give them a phone call. The people who work in admissions are there to answer questions about how to get onto courses.
3. Look at the 'My World of Work' website: <http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk> for careers advice and/or make an appointment to see one of the SDS advisors based in school.
4. If you are considering a university course in the future, you should also look at <https://www.ucas.com/> which is the starting point for finding out about university courses.
5. Look at job adverts for the kinds of jobs or careers you want to get into and note the types and levels of qualifications the employers are expecting.
6. Choose subjects that you enjoy.
7. Choose subjects that you are already doing well in (these are likely to be the ones you enjoy most).
8. *Do not* choose a subject just because you like the teacher. There is no guarantee that you will get the same teacher next year.
9. *Do not* choose a subject just because your friend is choosing it too. There is no guarantee you will be in the same class and you are there to work not to socialise.

Whatever combination of courses you decide to opt for please be aware that you are committing yourself to attending all your lessons every week, to complete all the work required for your courses, to prepare properly for assessments and to behave in accordance with school rules. **Once you have started in a subject you are expected to remain in that subject for the whole year.**

Information about the SQA courses on offer to pupils in S6 are available from the SQA website. The web addresses for each course are shown in Appendix 1, along with any school-specific information. Please note that where there is a cost shown against the course, pupils who have requested a free school meal or who live in SIMD 1 – 3 do not pay.

Course Choice Information for pupils in S3 who will be in S4 in Session 2018 – 2019

Pupils, parents and carers should find out as much information as possible about the courses, along with requirements for jobs, college and university courses before choosing courses.

For pupils looking to attend college after Queen Anne, links to nearby colleges are given below:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Fife College | http://www.fife.ac.uk |
| SRUC Elmwood Campus | http://www.sruc.ac.uk |
| Edinburgh College | http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk |

For those pupils who are aiming for university after Queen Anne it is worthwhile looking at the statements that universities have made about qualifications and admissions in light of the changes brought about by the introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence. You will find links to these statements on this page: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65733.html>

The Course Choice Process

Late November to early December 2017

- Guidance Teachers go over the course choice process, focussing on good reasons for choosing courses.
- Pupils indicate their likely choices during a trial run in PSE. This information is used to plan the course choice form for January.
- Guidance Teachers check the trial run choices and discuss any issues with pupils and parents/carers prior to the main choices being made.

January 2018

- Pupils are informed at assemblies about the main choice process.
- Parents/Carers are informed at the Parents/Carers' Information Evening on **January 10th** about the main choice process.
- Pupils, parents/carers make the choices for Session 2018 – 2019. (**Deadline for returning the form is Friday 19th January.**)

January to Early March

- The choices are processed.
- Guidance Teachers will be in contact with pupils, parents/carers where there are issues with the choices.

Early March to May

- The timetable is constructed.
- Guidance Teachers will be in contact with pupils, parents/carers where there are issues with the choices.

Friday June 1st

- Timetables issued to pupils.

Wednesday June 6th

- New timetable begins.

Appendix 1

| Subject | Levels and SQA URLs | Notes |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Administration & IT | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48579.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45687.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47435.html | |
| Applications of Mathematics | National 3 www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/81287.html | At National 3 level, the Mathematics course is called “Applications of Mathematics”. |
| Art & Design | National 3 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48580.html National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47385.html National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47388.html | |
| Biology | National 3 http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N3_Sciences_Biology.pdf National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N4_Sciences_Biology.pdf National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/BiologyCourseSpecN5.pdf | |
| Chemistry | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48583.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47423.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47428.html | |
| Computing Science | National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56922.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56923.html | |
| Creative Computing | NPA Level 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/63338.html NPA Level 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/69525.html | |
| Dance | National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47389.html | |
| Design & Manufacture | National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47450.html National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/81108.html | There is a cost of £10 for the National 4/5 course. |
| Drama | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nq/CfE_CourseSpec_N3_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nq/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/DramaCourseSpecN5.pdf | |
| Engineering Science | National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47451.html National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/81112.html | Pupils require a high level of mathematical skill for National Engineering Science. Pupils who do not have Mathematics at level 5 next session should consider an alternative course. |

Appendix 1

| Subject | Levels and SQA URLs | Notes |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| English | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48588.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45673.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45674.html | |
| Financial Services | National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/27731.html | |
| French | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N3_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf | |
| Geography | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48591.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47441.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47446.html | |
| German | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N3_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf | |
| Graphic Communication | National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47452.html National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47459.html | |
| Health & Food Technology | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nq/CfE_CourseSpec_N3_HealthandWellbeing_HealthandFoodTechnology.pdf National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nq/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_HealthWellbeing_HealthFoodTechnology.pdf National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/HealthandFoodTechnologyCourseSpecN5.pdf | There is a cost of £20. |
| History | National 3 www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48594.html National 4 www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47442.html National 5 www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47447.html | |
| Mandarin | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N3_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_Languages_ModernLanguages.pdf | There will be no Mandarin courses offered after Session 2018 – 2019. |
| Mathematics | National 4 www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47417.html National 5 www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47419.html | |
| Media Studies | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48598.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45667.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47414.html | |

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|--------------------------|--|--|
| Modern Studies | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48600.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45701.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47448.html | |
| Music | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48601.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47387.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47391.html | |
| Music Technology | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56948.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56949.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56950.html | |
| Performance Skills Units | National 2 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48570.html National 3 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48603.html National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47394.html National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47399.html Higher http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47901.html | These are stand-alone units from the Physical Education courses. Pupils choosing this option will not sit a final exam or gain a Course Award, but it may be possible to gain Unit awards at Higher Level. |
| Photography | NPA Level 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/63340.html NPA Level 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/63340.html | |
| Physical Education | National 2 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48570.html National 3 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48603.html National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47394.html National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47399.html | |
| Physics | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48604.html National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47425.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47430.html | |
| Practical Cookery | National 3 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nq/CfE_CourseSpec_N3_SocialStudies_Hospitality_PracticalCookery.pdf National 4 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nq/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_SocialStudies_Hospitality_PracticalCookery.pdf National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Hospitality_PracticalCookeryCourseSpecN5.pdf | There is a cost of £37. |
| Practical Woodworking | National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47455.html National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47462.html | There is a cost of £10. |

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|-------------------------|--|--|
| RMPS | National 3 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48609.html National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47420.html National 5 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45699.html | |
| Sports Leadership | NPA Levels 4 & 5 https://www.sportsleaders.org/qualifications-programmes/sports-leadership | |
| Travel & Tourism | National 4 http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65336.html National 5 https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65335.html | |
| Courses at Fife College | Please contact Fife College for details. | Pupils spend Monday and Wednesday afternoons at college. Pupils will miss two periods from Core (PSE and/or PE) to allow travel to the college. Pupils may only be able to gain unit awards at the college rather than a full course award. Pupils will be responsible for making their own way to the college and home again. |

Information about National and Higher courses are also available from the National Parent Forum website. This is more “parent friendly” than some of the information on the SQA website.

For Nationals <https://www.npfs.org.uk/nationals-in-a-nutshell/>

For Highers <https://www.npfs.org.uk/highers-in-a-nutshell/>