

National Qualifications

PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL



Picture Quiz Round

Assessment through the decades

Historical Context : The 70s

- ❑ 'O' Grades
- ❑ In which year did Slade have a hit with 'Merry Christmas Everybody'?



Historical Context : The 80s

- ❑ Standard Grades
- ❑ Assessment for All
- ❑ Name the character played by Joan Collins in Dynasty.



Historical Context : The 90s

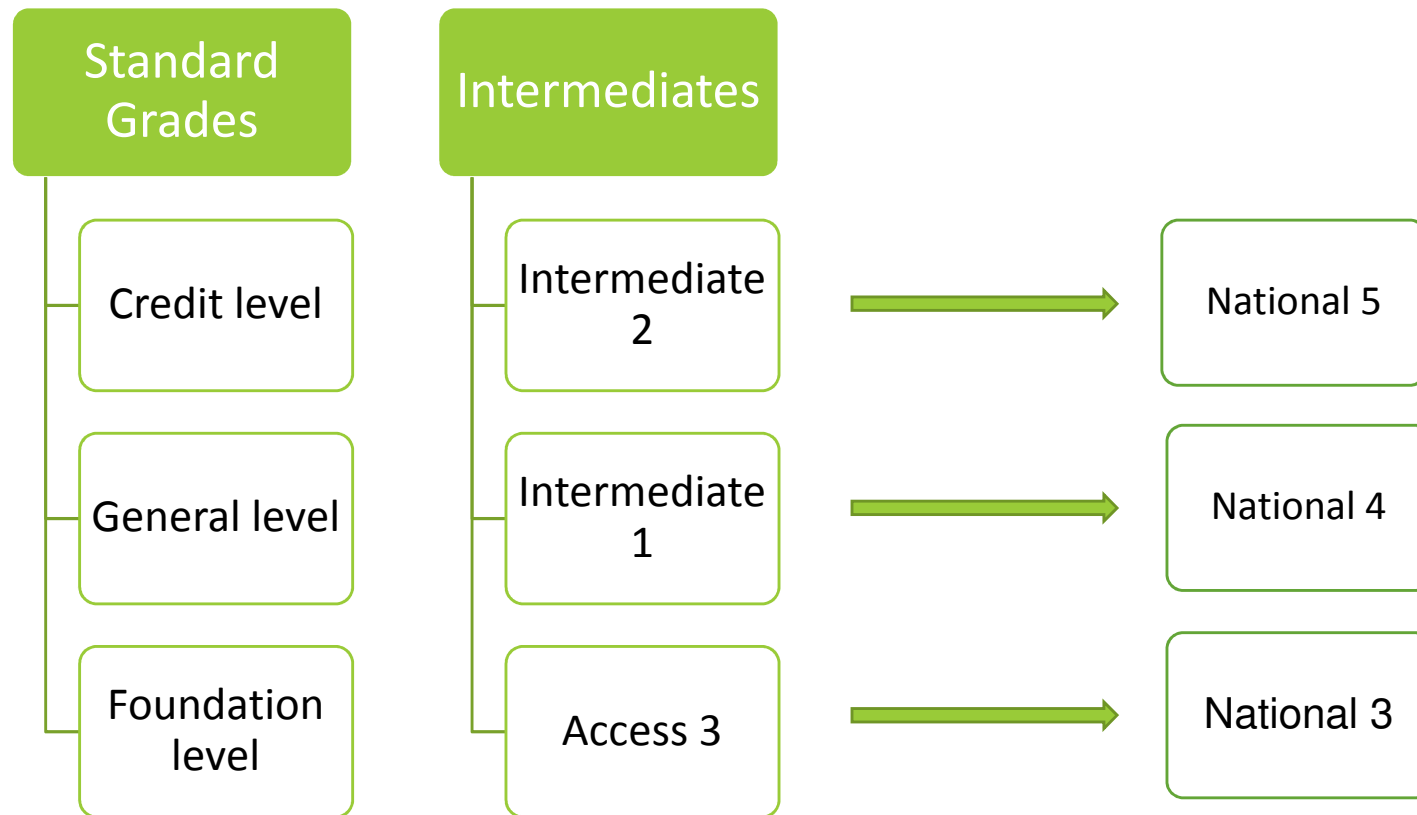
- ❑ Intermediates
- ❑ Which song by Barry Manilow did Take That cover in 1993?




Hybrid system

A Catonkey!!

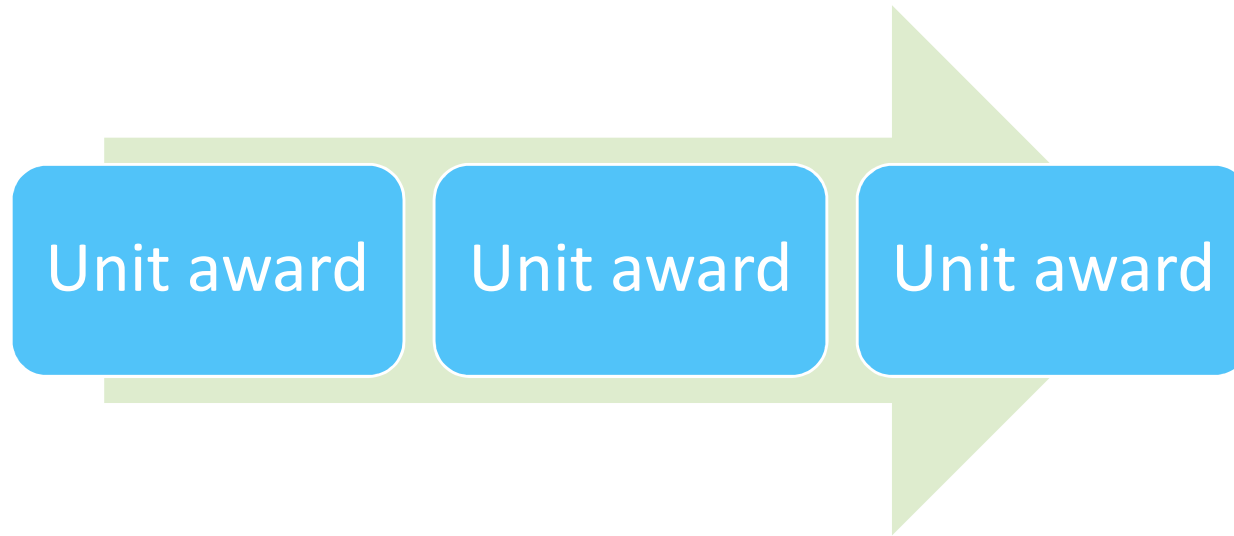





National 3

- National 3 consists of two or three **units**
 - The units are **assessed within the class**
 - **No** external **exam**
 - Pupils **must pass all units** to be awarded a National 3 in the subject
 - Course award will be either a **pass or a fail**, no grades awarded
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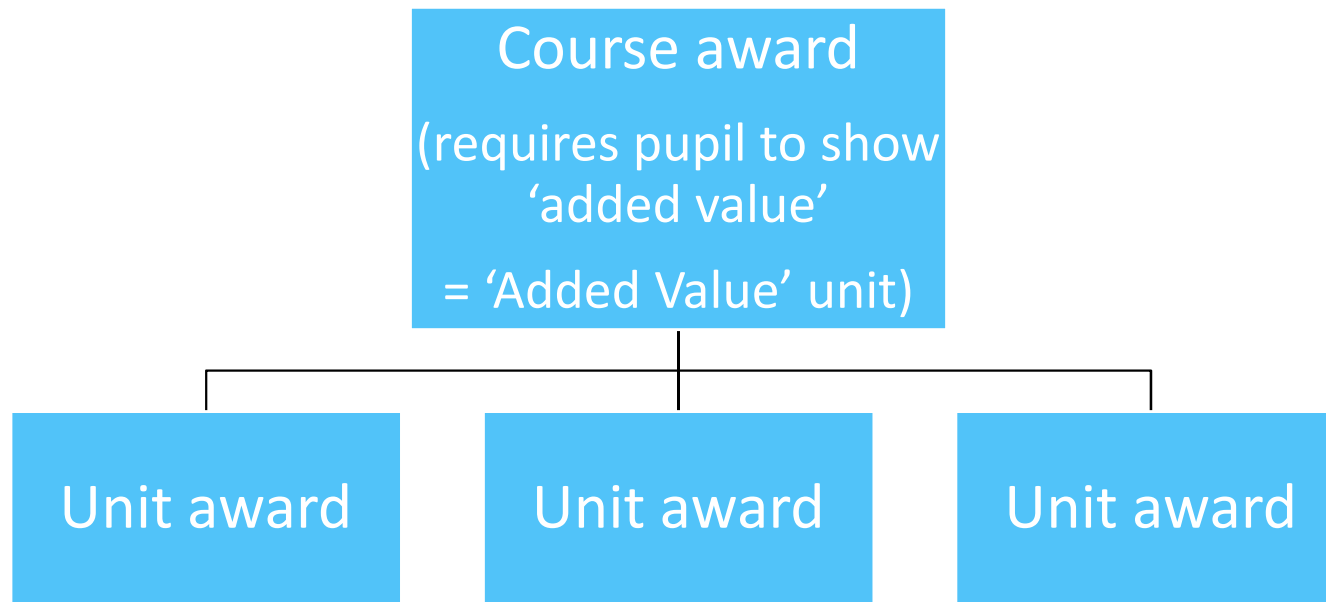
National 3



National 4

- National 4 consists of two or three **units**
 - The units are **assessed within the class**
 - National 4 has an **'Added Value'** unit e.g. assignment, performance, practical activity
 - **No** external **exam**
 - Pupils **must pass all units, including the 'Added Value' unit**, to achieve a course award at National 4 in the subject
 - Course award will be either a **pass or a fail**, no grades awarded
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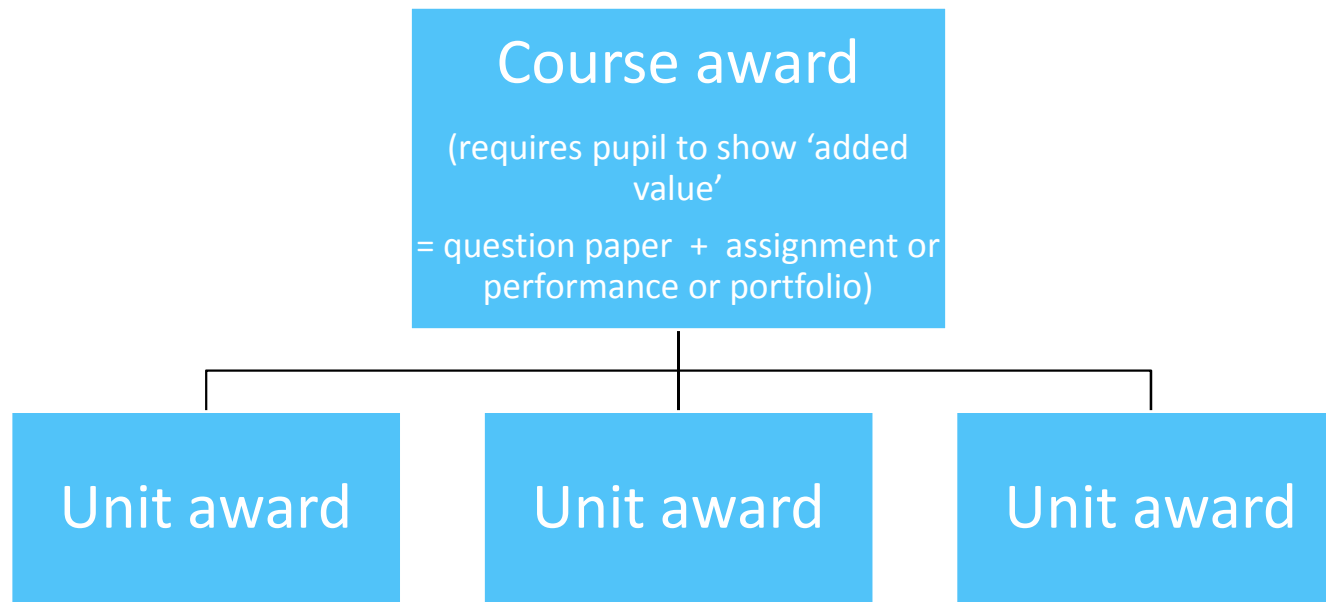
National 4




National 5

- National 5 consists of two or three **units**
- The units are **assessed within the class**
- **'Added Value'** for National 5 involves:
 - Preparation for the Question Paper (for most subjects)
 - An assignment/performance/practical activity which is assessed by SQA (for most subjects)
- External **Question Paper** (exam) for most subjects
- To achieve National 5 pupils must pass all **units**
- The **assignment/portfolio/performance** contributes to the overall grade for National 5
- National 5 is graded **A-D or No Award**

National 5



Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting

- **Full Report** issued Tuesday, 3rd December
 - **Report Reflection and Mentoring** in Key Adult Time
 - **Tracking Report** issued on Monday, 10th February following prelims for Nat 5
 - **Target Setting** with subject teachers leading up to **Tracking Report** being produced
 - **Report Reflection and Mentoring** in Key Adult Time
 - **S4 Parents' Meeting** on Thursday, 13th February
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Assessment through the Decades - Answers

QUESTIONS

In which year did Slade have a hit with 'Merry Christmas Everybody'?

1973

Name the character played by Joan Collins in Dynasty.

Alexis Carrington Colby


Which song by Barry Manilow did Take That cover in 1993?

Could It Be Magic?

National Qualifications

GEOGRAPHY

The S3 Experience in Geography

- 6 – 9 Months headroom/enhancement period
 - Focusing on BGE at Level 4
 - Depth and challenge in the learning experience, building the scaffolding for the Nationals
 - Focus on skills
 - Interdisciplinary learning, particularly between subjects within the same curricular area
 - By the end of S3 pupils will be beginning their National 3, 4 and 5 qualifications
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Rapid Response



Beginning National Qualifications

An extract from the Course Outline (*Social Studies – Geography*)

Environmental Hazards

[\(Links to Level 4- SOC 4-07a\)](#)

Coastal Landscapes

[\(Links to level 4 SOC 4-07a\)](#)

Population


[\(Links to Level 4 SOC 4-11c\)](#)

The National Courses

3 Units for National 3,4 and 5, which include:

Unit	Topics Covered	Assessment Month in S4
Human Environments	Urban and Rural Change, Population	March
Physical Environments	Coastal and Glaciated landscapes and Weather	January (also Prelim Exam)
Global Issues	Environmental Hazards and Climate Change & Sustainability	October
Added Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ River Study▪ Sphere of Influence Study	November

National 5 – High Expectations

- The bar has been raised in terms of expectations
 - Pupils need to reach a certain standard before entry to the final exam i.e. need to pass Unit assessments
 - They have more opportunity to **apply** their knowledge and skills than before, creating better learners and better thinking skills
 - More emphasis on transferrable skills which are relevant for lifelong learning
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National 5 – High Expectations

- Added Value Assignment – a write up of the Added Value Project (from National 4 level) in 1 hour in exam conditions. This is externally assessed and is worth 25% of the final grade
- Final exam in May of S4 which is 1½ hours long and worth 75% of the final mark

National Qualifications

MATHEMATICS

S3 Experience in Mathematics

- Classes in Mathematics are set from S1 allowing pupils to be following appropriate pathways from an early stage
 - S3 sees us continuing work from S1 & 2 on Levels 1-4 according to pupil progress
 - In the Mathematics department we look on the start of S3 to provide the grounding in Mathematical skills for the National Qualifications
 - Putting an emphasis on the application of skills in everyday life whilst also building on the fundamental skills of number, algebra and geometry
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National 3 Life Skills Mathematics

3 internally assessed units

- Numeracy
- Shape, space and measures
- Manage money and data



To achieve a Course Award a pupil must pass all three units.

National 4 Mathematics

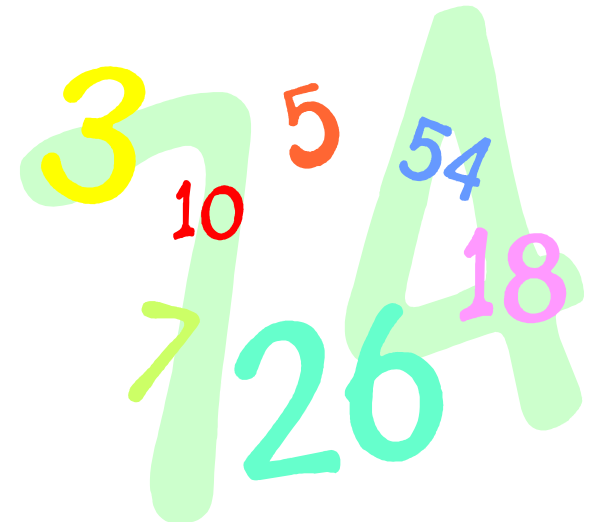
3 internally assessed units

- Numeracy
- Expressions and Formulae
- Relationships

Added Value Unit consists of an internal examination.

Two papers: Paper 1 – Non calculator (20 minutes)

Paper 2 – Calculator (40 minutes)



National 5 Mathematics

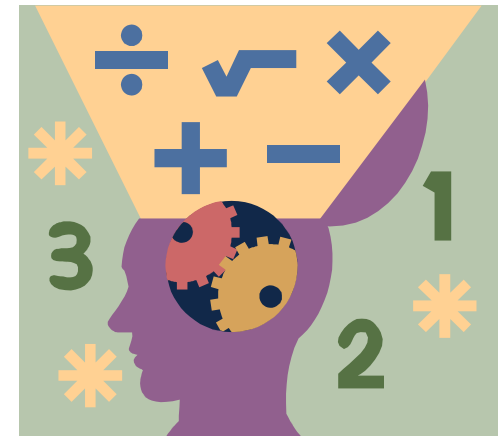
3 internally assessed units

- Expressions and Formulae
- Relationships
- Applications

Added Value consists of preparation for the external examination and two question papers

Two papers: Paper 1 – Non Calculator (1 hour)

Paper 2 – Calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)




National Qualifications

SCIENCES



The S3 Experience in the Sciences

- S3 is part of pupils Broad General Education which provides knowledge, skills and experiences
 - Pupils are assessed using level 4 experiences and outcomes – assessment tools are varied and are carried out throughout the school year
 - S3 provides the foundations for the Senior Phase in S4 – S6
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The S4 Experience in the Sciences

- S4 is the start of the Senior Phase when we begin preparing pupils for National courses.
- In the Sciences, the three levels (Nat 5/4/3) are taught in bi-level classes consisting of:

National 5/4 and National 4/3



The S4 Experience in the Sciences


- All three levels (Nat 5/4/3) are divided into three units
- Each unit has the same title across all levels

i.e. in Physics, the unit titles are:

Dynamics and Space
Electricity and Energy
Waves and Radiation

- Each of these areas is taught at all three levels
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Assessment

- Internal assessments will be ongoing throughout S4
 - S4 begins post Easter, pupils may be involved in internal assessments at any point after the Easter break
 - Internal assessment instruments (unit assessments) should determine if a pupil has achieved the standard for the qualification they are attempting
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Assessment


- In the Sciences, the internal unit assessments are:

Written tests

Research reports

Investigative reports

Added value assignment for National 4 and 5

- A pass in each area will be required to achieve a course award
 - There will be an opportunity for resits in January
 - Pupils will be recommended for the National 5 exam if they have passed all of the National 5 internal assessments
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Added Value for National 4 and 5

- Pupils will be asked to produce a written report based on research carried out at home and in class (assignment)
- The assignment will be carried out over three weeks
 - Week 1 – research in class
 - Week 2 – research at home
 - Week 3 – report written in class
- National 4 Added Value assignment is marked by the school
- National 5 assignment is sent to SQA for marking and contributes towards the final mark/grade

SQA

Assessment

National 3 and 4: Internal

- Pass/Fail
- Course award if you pass all internal components

National 5: Internal and External

- Course award (at ABCD) if you pass all internal components and the final assessment/exam

Decisions:

- Some classes already Nat 4/3 or Nat 5/4
- S4 Tracking Report following prelims
- Pupils sitting National 5 will also be presented for National 4 Added Value as a 'back up'

National 5 Prelims

- Monday 13th January until Friday 17th January
- S4 Tracking Report confirms level
- School sends estimates to SQA
- No exam leave
- Pupils in class when they do not have an exam on the day

National Exams in May

- Begin on Tuesday April 29th (Modern Studies)
- Finish on Friday 30th May (Art)
- Exam leave for S4 pupils

Discussions at City level

Possibilities:

No exam leave for pupils doing Nat3/4 only

Sliding scale of exam leave for those doing Nat 5 from 6-20 days, exclusive of exam days

Sharing the Standard

- Quality assurance and internal verification
- School internal verification policy
 - departmental procedures
 - prior verification
- Subject/Neighbourhood/Authority
- External Verification by SQA

Results Service



Exceptional Circumstances

before results are published



Post Results Review Service

after results have been published

Exceptional Circumstances

- There must be a fundamental disadvantage
- Personal circumstances:
 - bereavement
 - medical
 - domestic
- Examination circumstances:
 - assessment arrangements
 - extreme disruption

Post Results Service



Clerical check

check that marks tally and the correct total is entered



Marking review

clerical check plus Senior Examiner looks at paper

But.....

- Pupils must have: completed all coursework
performed less well than estimated
- Grades can go down as well as up
- There will be a charge if the result is unchanged