



Lourdes Secondary School

S5-6 Prelim Report Guide

S5-6 prelim reports have been issued to all parents and pupils via email. In order to support your understanding of this prelim % the guide below offers information on:

- National Qualifications – Assessment Structure
- Course Assessment Components
- Course Content Sampled within Prelim
- Significant Trends/Additional Information

National Qualifications – Assessment Structure

Broadly speaking, the course assessment structure for most NQs consists of one or two question papers plus an additional piece of coursework, which is usually marked externally by SQA markers. This additional piece of coursework (e.g. a portfolio, assignment or project) is completed by the pupil independently, either at school or at home. The weightings applied to the question papers and the coursework vary from subject to subject. These pieces of coursework provide pupils with opportunities to show that they know their subject (s), and to gain marks which could make a big difference to their final grade. Each piece of coursework has different requirements, which teachers tell pupils about.

Prelim Scores (Percentages)

Please note that prelim percentages reflect a pupil's performance in their subjects based on recent prelim exams. A pupil's performance may go up or down in the period between the prelim diet and the SQA Exam diet in 2023, based on a pupil's progress as teachers continue to deliver the content of the courses. Further assessments take place during the weeks leading up to the start of the SQA Exam Diet.

		Course Assessment Components	Course Covered and Sampled within Prelim	Significant Trends/Information	
Art & Design	National 5	Written Exam - 20%	All Question Paper knowledge has been sampled within the prelim	Half the practical folio should be submitted by pupils to teachers by mid February 2023.	
		Practical Folio - 80%	Folio - not sampled in prelim		
	Higher	Written Exam - 20%	All Question Paper knowledge has been sampled within the prelim	Half the practical folio should be submitted by pupils to teachers by mid February 2023.	
		Practical Folio - 80%	Folio - not sampled in prelim		
	Advanced Higher	Written classwork - 34%	n/a	Half of the practical folio should have been completed by mid February 2023. The folio and 2,000 word critical analysis classwork deadline is the end of March.	
		Practical folio - 64%	n/a		
Photography	Higher	Written exam = 20%	All Question Paper knowledge has been sampled within the prelim	All Planning, Research and Investigation, 4 shoots presented and the mid project review written by mid February 2023. 4 further shoots are required for the full project deadline for the end of March.	
		Photography project = 80%			
BECS	National 5	Written Exam - 42%	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	In the final exam pupils tend to perform well in the assignment	
		Assignment - 58%	Assignment - not sampled in prelim		
	Higher	Written Exam - 42%	75% of course content has been sampled within prelim	In the final exam pupils tend to perform well in the assignment	
		Assignment - 58%	100% of course content has been sampled within prelim		
	Computing	National 5	Written Exam - 67%	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Elements of course still to covered can contribute to improved marks in the final written exam paper. Pupils tend to perform strongly in the practical assessment.
			Assignment - 33%	Assignment - not sampled in prelim	
Higher		Written Exam - 67%	80% of course content has been sampled within prelim	Pupils tend to perform strongly in the practical assessment.	
		Assignment - 33%	Assignment - not sampled in prelim		

English

National 5	Written Exam - 70 % (2 Papers)	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	The prelim grade does not include a mark for the folio essay (worth 30 marks). The Folio deadline is the end of February, and work on the essay is on-going.
	Paper 1 (Reading for Understanding, Analysis & Evaluation) 30/70		
	Paper 2 (Critical Reading) 40/70. There are two components in Paper 2: Scottish Text 20 Marks + Critical Essay 20 Marks.		
	Folio Essay - 30%	Folio - not sampled in prelim	
Higher	Written Exam - 70 % (2 Papers)	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	The prelim grade does not include a mark for the folio essay (worth 30 marks). The Folio deadline is the end of February, and work on the essay is on-going.
	Paper 1 (Reading for Understanding, Analysis & Evaluation) 30/70		
	Paper 2 (Critical Reading) 40/70. There are two components in Paper 2: Scottish Text 20 Marks + Critical Essay 20 Marks.		
	Folio Essay - 30%	Folio - not sampled in prelim	
Advanced Higher	Written Exam - 40% (2 papers)	40% of the course has been sampled in the Prelim	The Prelim does not include a mark for the Dissertation (30 marks) - due in March; or folio (30 marks) due in April.
	Paper 1 - Literary Study 20/40		
	Paper 2 - Textual Analysis 20/40		
	Dissertation 30%	Dissertation and Folio - not sampled in prelim	
	Folio 30%		

	ESOL	National 5	Written Exam - 70 % (3 Papers)	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	
			Paper 1 (Listening) - 20%		
			Paper 2 (Reading) - 25%		
			Paper 3 (Writing) - 25%		
		Speaking Assessment - 30%	Speaking Assessment - not sampled in prelim		
		Higher	Written Exam - 70 % (3 Papers)	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	
			Paper 1 (Listening) - 20%		
			Paper 2 (Reading) - 25%		
Paper 3 (Writing) - 25%					
Speaking Assessment - 30%	Speaking Assessment - not sampled in prelim				
Mathematics	Maths	National 5	Written exam - 100%	Around 60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Historically, pupils who score less than 50% in the prelim have only a 5% chance of passing the final exam. In 2019, only 1/39 pupil who scored less than 50% went on to pass.
		Higher	Written exam - 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Historically, pupils who score less than 30% in the prelim have around a 20% chance of passing the final exam.
		Advanced Higher	Written exam - 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Historically, pupils who score less than 50% in the prelim have around a 20% chance of passing the final exam.
Modern Languages	Spanish	National 5	Listening - 25%	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Final SQA speaking examination at the end of February will have a significant impact on results. Historically students who perform poorly in the speaking examination, fail the qualification. Students are encouraged to focus on revising speaking regularly at home.
			Reading - 25%		
			Writing (Job Application) - 25%		
			Speaking (Final SQA exam mark) - 25%		
		Higher	Listening - 25%	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	
			Reading - 25%		
			Directed Writing - 25%		
			Speaking - 25%		

	Advanced Higher	Listening & Discursive Writing - 35%	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Speaking examination will be carried out by an external examiner on Thursday 23rd March. Final portfolios are due 31st March. Students should be focusing on these elements at home.	
		Reading & Translation 25%			
		Speaking - 25%			
		Portfolio - 15%	Portfolio - not sampled in prelim		
Italian	National 5	Listening - 25%	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Final SQA speaking examination at the end of February will have a significant impact on results. Historically students who perform poorly in the speaking examination, fail the qualification. Students are encouraged to focus on revising speaking regularly at home.	
		Reading - 25%			
		Writing (Job Application) - 25%			
		Speaking (Final SQA exam mark) - 25%	Speaking Assessment - not sampled in prelim		
	Higher	Listening - 25%	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Final SQA speaking examination at the end of February will have a significant impact on results. Historically students who perform poorly in the speaking examination, fail the qualification. Students are encouraged to focus on revising speaking regularly	
		Reading - 25%			
		Directed Writing - 25%			
		Speaking - 25%	Speaking Assessment - not sampled in prelim		
French	National 5	Listening - 25%	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Final SQA speaking examination at the end of February will have a significant impact on results. Historically students who perform poorly in the speaking examination, fail the qualification. Students are encouraged to focus on revising speaking regularly at home.	
		Reading - 25%			
		Writing (Job Application) - 25%			
		Speaking (Final SQA exam mark) - 25%	Speaking Assessment - not sampled in prelim		
	Higher	Listening - 25%	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim		Final SQA speaking examination at the end of February will have a significant impact on results. Historically students who perform poorly in the speaking examination, fail the qualification. Students are encouraged to focus on revising speaking regularly
		Reading - 25%			
		Directed Writing - 25%			
		Speaking - 25%	Speaking Assessment - not sampled in prelim		
Advanced Higher	Listening & Discursive Writing - 35%	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Speaking examination will be carried out by an external examiner on Friday 10th March. Final portfolios are due 31st March. Students should be focusing on these elements at home.		
	Reading & Translation - 25%				
	Speaking - 25%				

			Portfolio - 15%	Portfolio - not sampled in prelim		
Performing Arts	Drama	National 5	Written Exam - 40%	40% of the course content has been sampled within the prelim	Performance assessment is completed later in the year.	
			Performance Assessment - 60%	Performance - not sampled in prelim		
		Higher	Written Exam - 40%	40% of the course content has been sampled within the prelim		Historically Practical assessment marks are much higher than written exam on average.
			Performance Assessment - 60%	Performance - not sampled in prelim		
	Music	National 5	Written Exam - 40% (Listening)	40% of the course content has been sampled within the prelim	Performance assessment is completed later in the year.	
			Performance Assessment - 60%	Performance - not sampled in prelim		
		Higher	Written Exam - 40% (Listening)	40% of the course content has been sampled within the prelim	Historically Practical assessment marks are much higher than listening on average.	
			Performance Assessment - 60%	Performance - not sampled in prelim		
		Advanced Higher	Written Exam - 40% (Listening)	40% of the course content has been sampled within the prelim		
			Performance Assessment - 60%	Performance - not sampled in prelim		
	Music Technology	National 5	Written Exam - 30% (Listening)	30% of the course content has been sampled within the prelim		Project is completed later in the year.
			Project - 70%	Project - not sampled in prelim		
Higher		Written Exam - 30% (Listening)	30% of the course content has been sampled within the prelim			
		Project - 70%	Project - not sampled in prelim			
Physical Education	Higher	Single Practical Performance 50%	75% of the course content has been covered in the prelim	Candidates with below 25% for the prelim can struggle to pass if they do not have a high performance grade. Pupils with current passes in N5 A/B will usually do well in the QP.		
Question Paper 50%						

		Advanced Higher	Dissertation/Project 70%	No Prelim Required - on-going coursework	AH includes a 4000-5000 project which can pose a significant challenge to pupils.
			Single Practical Performance 30%		
Religious Education	RMPS	Higher	Written Exam - 100% (80 marks)	63% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Final Grade Estimated grades are based on 4 pieces of assessment throughout the year: 3 unit assessments: Christianity 23%, RPQ 15% & Morality 23% and a prelim with 39%
			Paper 1 - 60 marks 2hrs 15 mins Paper 2 - 20 45 mins		Historically, pupils who achieve below 55-60% in assessments and prelims are at a high risk of not passing the exam. We identify pupils on that boundary line and offer early interventions and targeted support through Supported Study through essay writing on Monday during lunch times and knowledge sessions on Wednesday after school. Revising and practicing essays at home and submitting them for marking has shown a higher pass rate.
Science	Biology	National 5	Written Exam - 100%	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Biology. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.
			The prelim consisted of 50 marks in total. 12 marks multiple choice (24%), 38 marks section 2 (76%). The final exam is worth 100 marks 25 marks multiple choice (25%), 75 marks section 2 (75%).		
		Higher	Written Exam - 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Biology. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.
			The paper total was 80 marks (Paper 1 - 20 and Paper 2 - 60 marks). Final Exam (100%) - Paper 1: 25 marks and Paper 2: 95 marks		

	Advanced Higher	<p>Written Exam - 100%</p> <p>The paper total was 74 marks (Section 1 - 18 and Section 2 - 56 marks). Final Exam (100%) - Section 1 - 20 marks and Section 2 - 80 marks.</p>	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Biology. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.
	National 5	<p>The prelim consisted of 60 marks in total. 15 marks multiple choice (25%), 45 marks section 2 (75%). The final exam is worth 100 marks 25 marks multiple choice (25%), 75 marks section 2 (75%).</p>	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Chemistry. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.
Chemistry	Higher	<p>Written Exam - 100%</p> <p>The prelim consisted of 77 marks in total. 19 marks multiple choice (25%), 58 marks section 2 (75%). The final exam is worth 120 marks 25 marks multiple choice (20%), 95 marks section 2 (80%).</p>	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Chemistry. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.
	Advanced Higher	<p>Written Exam - 100%</p> <p>The prelim consisted of 110 marks in total. 25 marks multiple choice (23%), 85 marks section 2 (77%).</p>	70% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Chemistry. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.

Science	Physics	National 5	Written Exam - 100%	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Physics. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.
			The prelim consisted of 60 marks in total. 15 marks multiple choice (25%), 45 marks section 2 (75%). The final exam is worth 100 marks 25 marks multiple choice (25%), 75 marks section 2 (75%).		
		Higher	Written Exam - 100%	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Physics. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.
			The prelim consisted of 100 marks in total. 17 marks multiple choice (17%) . 83 marks Section 2 (83%) . Final Exam is worth 155 marks. Multiple Choice 25 marks (16%) Section 2 - 130 marks (84%)		
		Advanced Higher	Written Exam - 100%. Final Exam	60% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	No internal assessments are included in the final grade for Physics. This means that the final SQA exam counts towards 100% of the allocated grade and is determined on exam day. Historically, pupils who achieve less than 40% in their prelim are very unlikely to secure a grade C or above in the final exam.
			Total Marks - 155 Multiple Choice - 25 Section 2 - 130 The prelim consisted of 98 marks in total. The final exam is worth 155 marks.		
	Geography	National 5	Written Exam- 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	
		Higher	Written Exam- 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	
		Advanced Higher	Exam - 35%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Candidates often benefit from doing a good dissertation as they have more control over this aspect.

		Folio Essay and Geographical Study- 65%		
History	National 5	Written Exam- 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	
	Higher	Written exam - 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	Pupils have performed better in Paper 1 than Paper 2 since Covid because there are more options of essays to answer. Paper 2 has no amendments and therefore there are more things that could be asked.
	Advanced Higher	Exam - 64%	100% of course has been covered in the prelim.	No trend from Lourdes as this is year 1 presenting. However, candidates often benefit from doing a good dissertation as they have more control over this aspect
		Dissertation - 36%	To be submitted at the end of March	
Modern Studies	National 5	Written exam - 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	
	Higher	Written exam 100%	66% of course content has been sampled within the prelim	There is still additional choice in Paper 1 which has increased the level of pupil performance.
	Advanced Higher	Exam - 64%	50% of course covered in prelim	Candidates often benefit from doing a good dissertation as they have more control over this aspect.
		Dissertation - 36%	To be submitted at the end of March	
Politics	Higher	Written Exam - 100%	66% of the course content has been sampled within prelim	
Technologies	National 5	Written Exam - 62 %	All Question Paper knowledge has been sampled within the prelim	Assignment is 8 hours of folio work completed in class under exam conditions. Our pupils will sit this over 12 periods and begin to undertake their assignment from the week beginning the 6th of February. Historically pupils perform better in written paper than assignment.
		Practical Assignment - 38%	Assignment - not sampled in prelim	
	Higher	Written Exam - 60 %	All Question Paper knowledge has been sampled within the prelim	
		Practical Assignment - 40%	Assignment - not sampled in prelim	