

Curricular Area: Science

Course Title: Physics National 5

Course Description

The course provides a broad-based, integrated study of the range of Physics topics which are required for progression to the study of Higher Physics as well as other areas of study at college or employment

There are 3 units of study:

- Electricity and Energy
- Waves and Radiation
- Dynamics and Space

The course further develops the key areas studied at National 4 level Physics.



Entry requirements

National 4 in Physics or National 5 in Biology or Chemistry

Presentation level

Students may be either presented for the 3 units at SCQF level 5 or for the final National 5 exam.

Assessment

Students who are working towards achieving SCQF level 5 Physics will sit Key Area assessments, testing their ability to recall knowledge related to key areas of content and successfully perform solving problem skills.

Students who are working towards passing the final National 5 exam will sit more demanding assessments with questions that test the application of their knowledge to new situations. All students will be applying skills of scientific enquiry throughout the course.

There is an Assignment (worth 20% of the final mark) and an exam, both of which are externally marked. During the Assignment, students will carry out an experiment and do some research into a relevant topic in Physics and compare their results to published data on the same theme. The student then present their findings in a written report. There will also be a prelim exam.

Home Study Expectations

Students are issued with home study either weekly or fortnightly depending on the demands of part of the course. Home Study tasks will vary and could include research, consolidation of learning, practicing data handling skills and writing up experiments. Students will be also be expected to spend 30 minutes each week reading over their notes.

Possible next level of study

National 5
Physics

→ National 5 in Biology or Chemistry or SCQF Level 5
Skills for Work: Laboratory Science

↘ Higher Physics

Wider Achievement Opportunities

Students have many opportunities to explore and develop their investigative and practical skills in Physics. There are also opportunities to be involved in debates about contemporary controversial issues related to the use of Physics.

Possible career path

The study of Physics at this level is a good stepping stone to other science courses at school or college. Many types of engineering careers e.g. aeronautical, electrical, civil or mechanical, research in laboratories or the natural environment, geologist, medical physicist, food related careers, meteorology, and education.

For more information see <http://www.physics.org/careers.asp?contentid=381>