

NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of History National 4

HISTORY
SOCIAL STUDIES

NATIONAL
4

3

UNITS

HISTORICAL STUDY:

Medieval, Early Modern or Later Modern Periods

1. SCOTTISH

2. BRITISH

3. EUROPEAN AND WORLD

+
ADDED
VALUE
UNIT

ADDED VALUE UNIT: HISTORY ASSIGNMENT

What skills will my child develop?

- exploring, analysing, evaluating, problem-solving, communicating for different purposes
- a conceptual understanding of the past
- a straightforward knowledge and understanding of the factors contributing to, and the impact of, historical events
- the ability to apply a straightforward historical perspective and comment on historical sources
- investigating historical events and forming views
- explaining historical events and drawing straightforward conclusions
- selecting and researching evidence
- organising and applying learning



WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning by setting personal targets, reviewing and reflecting on progress and deciding next steps
- A blend of classroom approaches including whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- Collaborative learning: through discussion/debate; in groups (to research a topic and share findings with the class); more widely (blogging and communicating findings with learner communities around the world)
- Space for personalisation and choice: Assignment topic choice and methodology
- The Added Value Unit (Assignment) allows learners to choose a historical theme, research it and present evidence of their extended learning.
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy skills: selecting and assessing information, presenting findings; evaluating; debating; listening, reading, writing

ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 4, learners must pass all Units and the assignment
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be digital or spoken presentations, posters, leaflets, extended writing, notes or podcasts. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units.

ACTIVE LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

Learners work in groups to create scripts for a role-play on their topic: the Act of Union.

The script is based on a range of sources so that the characters and events in the role-play are portrayed as accurately as possible. Pupils then enact their script which is about the final debate in the Scottish Parliament in 1707. One group is 'for' the union, one 'against' and one group is 'undecided'. An intercurricular project enables History students to share information and then enact their debate with Modern Studies pupils who have undertaken similar work on the proposed 2014 Independence vote.

National 4 progresses onto National 5

For more detailed course information:

SQA: History National 4: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45628.html

Education Scotland: www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf



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