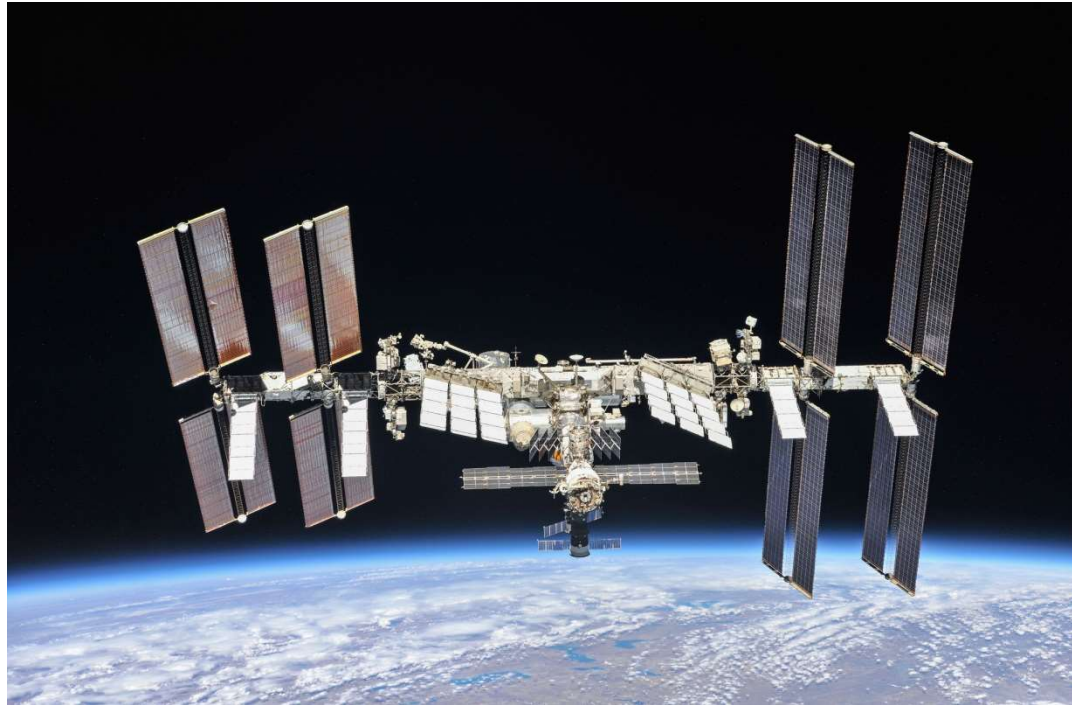


Supporting Pupils @ Home

2025-2026



N5 Physics

Course Information ... structure and content

The N5 Physics page on the SQA website... [National 5 Physics - Course overview and resources - Qualifications Scotland](#) ... has a link to the **Course Specification**, which has details of the course structure and content.

Qualifications Scotland
Teisteanasan Alba

Qualifications | Deliver Qualifications | Past papers | About

Home > National Qualifications > Subjects > Physics > National 5 Physics

Select subject

National 5 Physics

National Qualifications

Physics National 3 National 4 National 5 Higher Adv Higher

NQ home

Find your subject

Skills for Work

Baccalaureates

Learner support

Teaching support

Developing learners' skills

Unit search

NQ Quality assurance

About National Qualifications

Content may reference SQA but remains valid (02/02/26) +

Course Specification +

Past Papers and Marking Instructions +

Coursework +

Understanding Standards (17/07/2024) +

Course reports (30/10/2025) +

Data and Relationship sheets +

N5 National 5 Course Specification

SQA

National 5 Physics

Course code:	CS17 75
Course assessment code:	XS17 75
SCQF:	level 5 (24 SCQF credit points)
Valid from:	session 2019-20

The course specification provides detailed information about the course and course assessment to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the course and the course assessment in terms of the skills, knowledge and understanding that are assessed.

This document is for teachers and lecturers and contains all the mandatory information you need to deliver the course.

This edition: September 2019, version 4.0

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2012, 2017, 2018, 2019

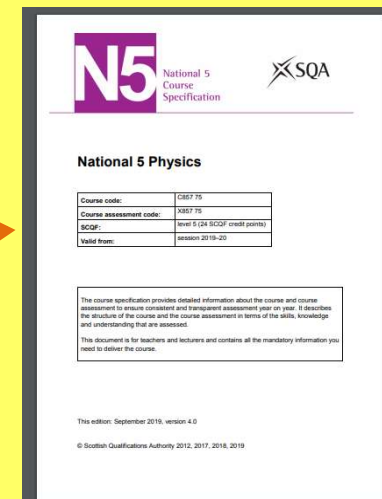
It also has a link to **Past Papers**, and the **Marking Instructions** for those. It also has a link to detailed info' on the **Assignment** (aka **Coursework**) It also has a link to the separate SQA **Understanding Standards** website. These are all extremely valuable resources that will help your child progress, and in preparing for their N5 course assessment.

Course Information ... Course Specification

The **Course Specification** doc' has the details of all the theory covered in the Course - everything your child needs to learn ! ...

[N5CourseSpecPhysics.pdf](#) .

The screenshot shows the SQA website interface for National 5 Physics. At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home > National Qualifications > Subjects > Physics > National 5 Physics. Below this, there is a navigation menu with 'National 5 Physics' selected. A sidebar on the left lists various resources like 'NQ home', 'Find your subject', 'Skills for Work', etc. The main content area displays a list of course-related items, each with a plus sign to expand it. The items are: 'Content may reference SQA but remains valid (02/02/26)', 'Course Specification', 'Past Papers and Marking Instructions', 'Coursework', 'Understanding Standards (17/07/2024)', 'Course reports (30/10/2025)', and 'Data and Relationship sheets'. An orange arrow points from the 'Course Specification' item in this list to the right.



... look at the **Mandatory Content** statements on p29 - 46.

It also has an *outline* of what's involved for the **Assignment** ... although much better info' about that is in another doc' called **Coursework(Assignment) Assessment Task** - see next slide.

Course Information ... Assignment

The Assignment is worth 20 % of the overall Course Award (...the Exam is the other 80%) - so it's an important thing !

Full info' about what needs to be done for this is explained in the doc' called **Coursework Assessment Task, or/and Assignment Assessment Task,** which is in the **Coursework section.**

Home > National Qualifications > Subjects > Physics > National 5 Physics

Select subject

National 5 Physics

Physics National 3 National 4 National 5 Higher Adv Higher

Content may reference SQA but remains valid (02/02/26)

Course Specification +

Past Papers and Marking Instructions +

Coursework -

This section provides information on marking instructions and/or the coursework assessment task(s). It includes information that centres need to administer coursework and must be read in conjunction with the course specification.

- [Coursework assessment task for National 5 Physics](#) June 2020
- [Guidance on conditions of assessment](#)

Information on the production and submission of Qualifications Scotland assessed coursework for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

- [Coursework for External Assessment](#) (261 KB)

Understanding Standards (17/07/2024) +

N5 National 5 Coursework Assessment Task

SQA

National 5 Physics Assignment Assessment task

Valid from session 2020-21 and until further notice.

This edition: June 2020 (version 4.0)

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[National 5 Physics Assignment Assessment Task](#)

An outline of what needs to be done for the Assignment is given in the Instructions section on p5-9, with more specifics in the Instructions for Candidates section on p21-26, which the pupils will have during their 'write up' - but that only has an *outline* Marking Grid in it ... **students should read carefully through the Detailed Marking Instructions on p11-20, which tells them what they need to do to gain each of the full 20 Marks. It's usually beneficial to do timed practise 'write-ups', before the official Reporting Stage in school.**

SQA's Understanding Standards website ...

This website... [Qualifications Scotland - Understanding Standards: About this website](#)... has real examples of *why* some answers got the Marks they did,



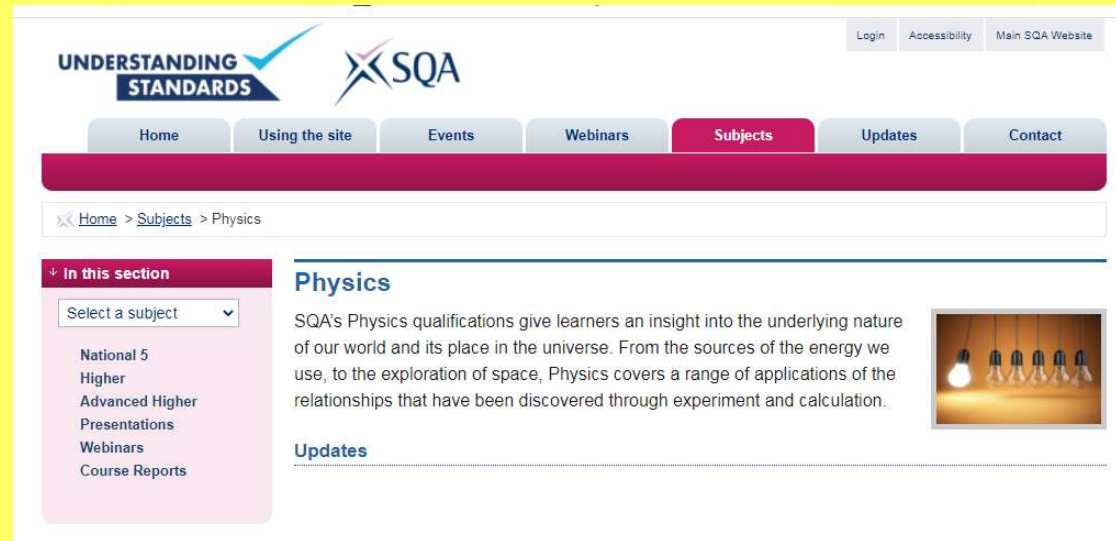
... and perhaps more usefully, *reasons* why other answers *didn't* get the Marks ... so this is a great place to '*understand the standards*' i.e. to see examples of the level of detail that the SQA expect pupils to give in their Exam answers ...

... which is a very useful thing to be aware of.

The next slide describes the two main, different types of pupil 'evidence' that's included - and how best to use that evidence.

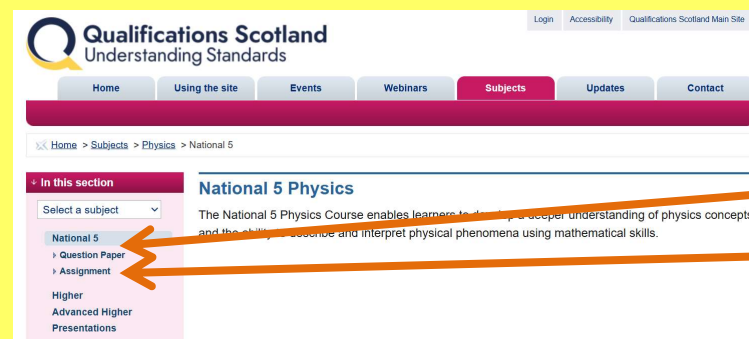
SQA's Understanding Standards ... Physics

The Physics page on the Understanding Standards website... [Qualifications Scotland - Understanding Standards: Physics](#) ... has links to the sample data for each Course.



for each Course.

The N5 page has links to examples of pupil's responses, called **Candidate Evidence**, for both the **Exam Questions** as well as for **Assignment Reports**.



The next slide describes how best to use the Candidate Evidence ...

Understanding Standards ... getting the best use of it

Qualifications Scotland
Understanding Standards

Home Using the site Events Webinars **Subjects** Updates Contact

Home > Subjects > Physics > National5 > Question Paper

In this section

Select a subject

- National 5
 - Question Paper
 - Assignment
- Higher
- Advanced Higher
- Presentations
- Webinars
- Course Reports

National 5 Physics - question paper

Question Paper 2021 - Revised March 2022 (All links open to PDF files)

Questions 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13

- ◊ [Candidate Evidence 2021](#)
- ◊ [Commentary 2021](#)

Question paper 2017 - Workshop 3 repackaged April 2023 (All links open as PDF files)

Materials for Workshop 1 (Q1-Q11) and Workshop 2 (Q6-Q12), Candidate 1 (complete Script) and Candidate 2 (complete script) have now been removed.

Questions 5 and 10 – open ended questions (WS3 repackaged April 2023)

- ◊ [Candidate Evidence 2017](#)
- ◊ [Commentary 2017](#)

First, look at **Candidate Evidence** for some Questions, and use the Marking Scheme for those particular questions (which can also be found in the SQA website) and ***you*** Mark them.

Then look at the **Commentary**, which shows you what Marks the SQA actually gave those same Questions ... doing that will let you see how well ***you*** have understood the level of detail needed in the answers.

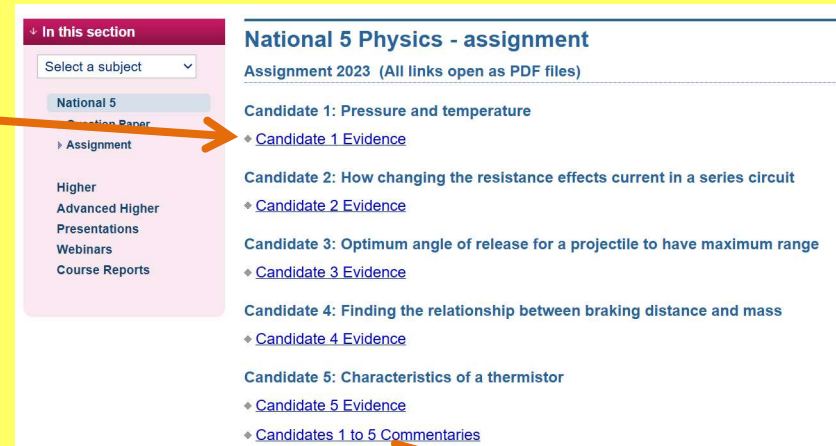
Then, read through the *comments* in the **Commentary** to understand *why* the SQA did, or did not, give the Marks for each of the Questions.

Doing that will give you more confidence to be able to give good, 'full' answers in the Exam - and to let you achieve the most Marks 😊

The next slide is about the Assignment info' in Understanding Standards ...

Understanding Standards ... in the Assignment Report

Again, first of all, look at some **Candidate Evidence** for some of the samples of Assignment Reports, and use the **Detailed Marking Scheme** to *Mark* them.



The screenshot shows a navigation menu on the left with 'National 5' selected. The main content area is titled 'National 5 Physics - assignment' and lists five candidates with links to their evidence. An orange arrow points from the text 'Candidate Evidence' in the first paragraph to the 'Candidate 1 Evidence' link. A second orange arrow points from the text 'Commentary' in the second paragraph to the 'Candidates 1 to 5 Commentaries' link.

National 5 Physics - assignment
Assignment 2023 (All links open as PDF files)

- Candidate 1: Pressure and temperature
◊ [Candidate 1 Evidence](#)
- Candidate 2: How changing the resistance effects current in a series circuit
◊ [Candidate 2 Evidence](#)
- Candidate 3: Optimum angle of release for a projectile to have maximum range
◊ [Candidate 3 Evidence](#)
- Candidate 4: Finding the relationship between braking distance and mass
◊ [Candidate 4 Evidence](#)
- Candidate 5: Characteristics of a thermistor
◊ [Candidate 5 Evidence](#)
- ◊ [Candidates 1 to 5 Commentaries](#)

Then, as with the Questions evidence, look at the **Commentary**, which Shows you what Marks the SQA actually gave those same Assignment Reports ... doing that will, again, let you see how well *you* have understood the level of detail needed in the different sections of the Assignment Report.

Then, as before, read through the *comments* in the **Commentary** to understand *why* the SQA did, or did not, give the Marks for each of the sections of the Assignment Report.

Key Resources ... issued by the class teacher

Each **Unit** and **Topic** has the resources listed below:

1. **Learning Outcome Checklist** - a more 'pupil friendly' version of the **SQA Course Specification, Mandatory Content**
2. **Teacher / class notes** - 'live' notes plus hand-out notes covering all the course content
3. comprehensive **Summary Notes** and **HW booklets**
4. **Topic Tests** - based on **SQA Past-Paper** questions, to support consolidation of knowledge and progress
5. **Virtual Physics** - a great set of digital Course notes ... *see below*
6. **SCHOLAR** - Notes & check-tests ... *see below*
7. **Textbooks** that covers the full course ... available on request.

All the resources are available in paper format as well as in digital format in the class Team, available via the i-pad

Additional Resources ... for support @ home

SCHOLAR

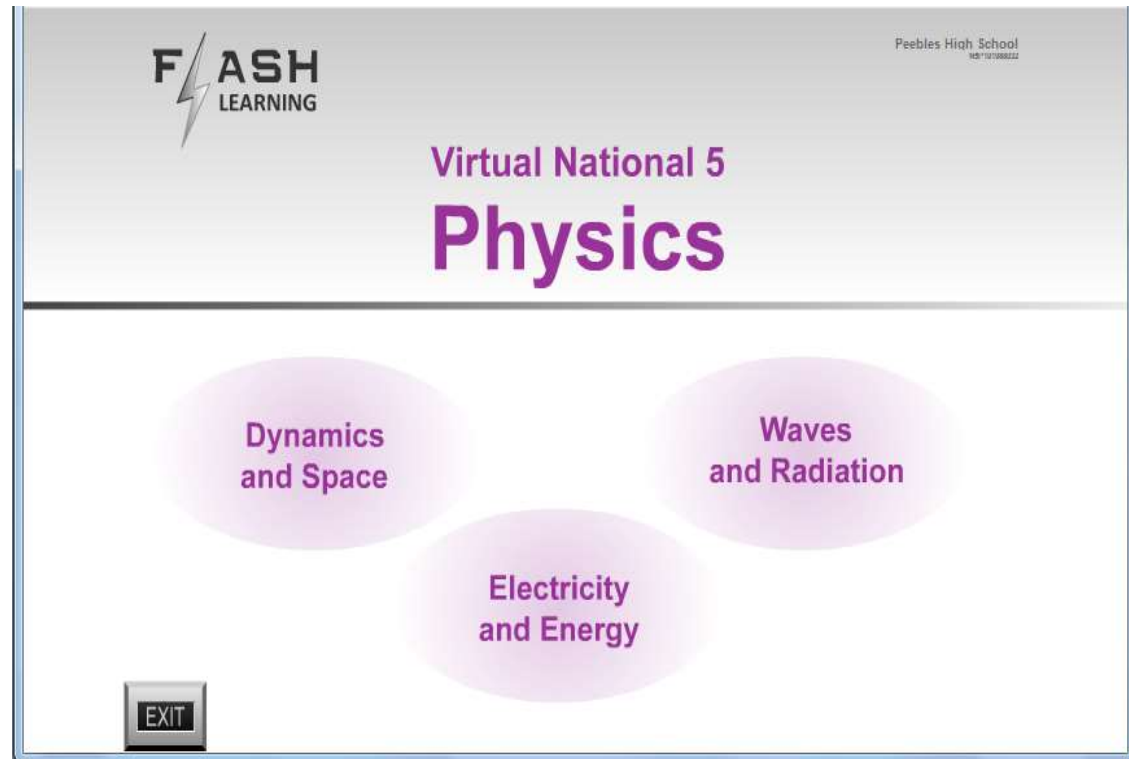


Pupils have access to this via their **Glow Login** details. This excellent resource is full of detailed notes, activities, simulations, practice questions and tests for the whole Course

This video is a helpful user guide for Higher pupils (and parents / carers)

[Scholar User Guide - Pupils](#)

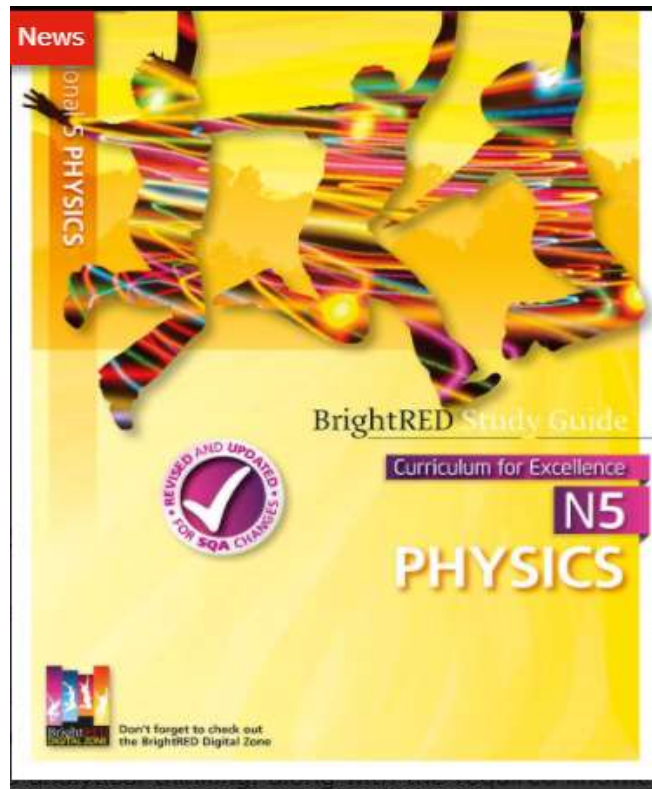
Additional Resources ... for support @ home



Every pupil has access to this fantastic digital resource, which has excellent learning notes, animations, worked examples, interactive summary sections that cover the full content of the Course [N5 Physics - physicsflashrepo](#) .

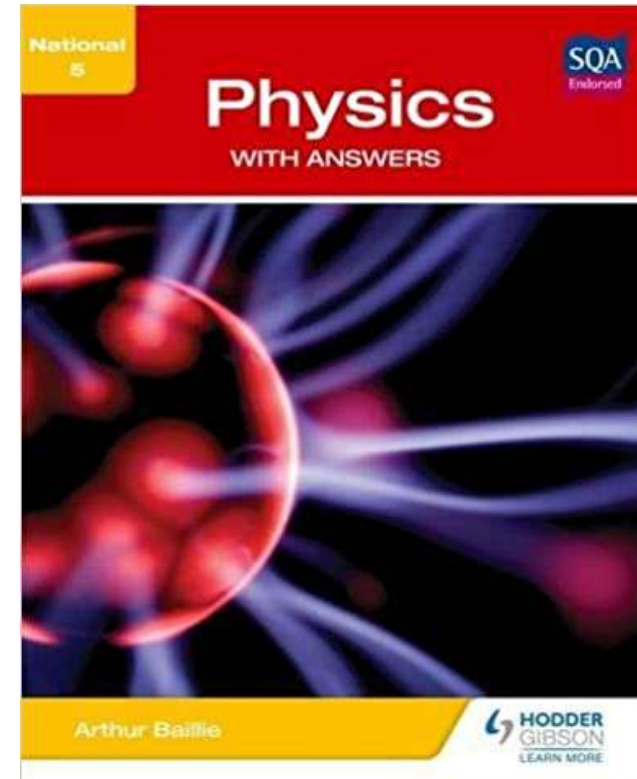
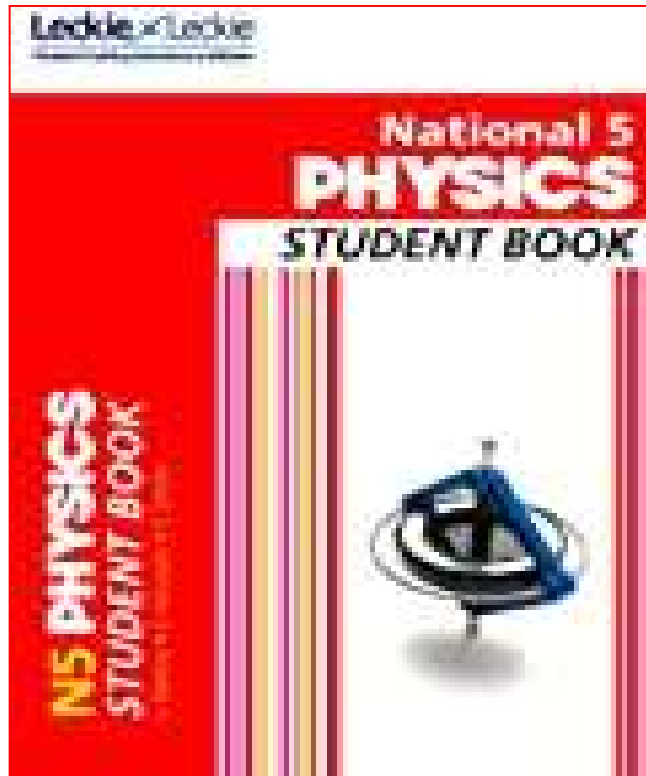
They are encouraged to make regular use of this, along with SCHOLAR, at home.

Additional Resources ... for support @ home



Every pupil has access to a copy of the Bright Red Study Guide for N5 Physics for use throughout the year. This book also has a complimentary website, '**Bright Red Digital Zone**', with activities, videos and quizzes which can be accessed by clicking here [Bright Red Digital](#)

Additional Resources ... for support @ home



Every pupil has access to a copy of a textbook, which covers the whole Course, in depth - they just need to ask for one.

Additional Resources ... for support @ home



YouTube GB

nuclear decay alpha beta gamma



Radioactivity: Expect the unexpected - Steve Weatherall
662K views · 7 years ago

TED-Ed

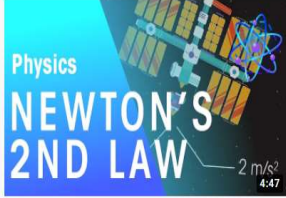
View full lesson: <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/radioactivity-expect-the-unexpected-dont-change-into-...>

Subtitles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJgc28csgV0>

YouTube GB

newton's 2nd law



Newton's Second Law | Forces & Motion | Physics | FuseSchool
28K views · 8 months ago

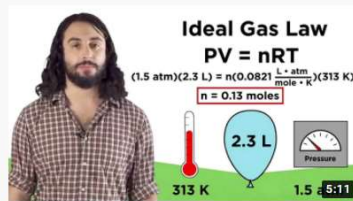
FuseSchool - Global Education

In this video, we are going to learn about and practice applying Newton's Second Law in calculating force, mass and ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0efXaBr_JcU

YouTube GB

kinetic theory of gases



Ideal Gas Law
 $PV = nRT$
 $(1.5 \text{ atm})(2.3 \text{ L}) = n(0.0821 \frac{\text{L} \cdot \text{atm}}{\text{mole} \cdot \text{K}})(313 \text{ K})$
 $n = 0.13 \text{ moles}$
2.3 L
313 K
1.5 atm

Kinetic Molecular Theory and the Ideal Gas Laws
317K views · 5 years ago

Professor Dave Explains

I bet many of you think that the ideal gas law must prohibit passing gas, but there are ...

Subtitles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=robEY-idcLU>

There are many, excellent, short videos that help explain some of the tricky, theoretical 'thought experiments' in ways that can really help understanding

Additional Resources ... for support @ home



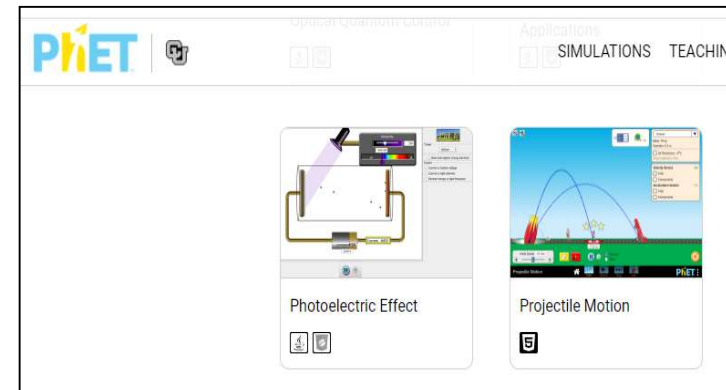
[Mr MacKenzie N5 – fizzics](#)



[Mrs Physics](#)



[Physics Scotland - Steven Wilkinson - YouTube](#)



[Filter - PhET Simulations](#)

Pupils have access to a range of excellent web-sites that have been developed by Physics teachers across Scotland, bringing together a vast collection of resources specifically tailored for N5 Physics.

Specific web-site details are available from the Physics teachers, if need be - with a few of the 'best' highlighted here and on the next slide ...

Additional Resources ... for support @ home



mrstewartphysics

@mrstewartphysics · 2.19K subscribers · 178 videos

Physics Teacher, Calderglen High School East Kilbride. Uploading demos of practical ...more
calderglenhs.greenhousecms.co.uk/Curriculum/Physics

Subscribe

[Mr Stewart Physics - YouTube](#)

[Calderglen High School - Physics N5 Resources](#)



National 5 Physics | Space |...

YouTube · The Physi...
1.6K views · 10...



National 5 Physics | Radiation | Detecti...

YouTube · The Physi...
562 views · 30 Sep...



Welcome to The Physics Academy!...

YouTube · The Physi...
4.6K views · 12 Aug

[Mr Mitchell's Physics aka The Physics Academy - Bing Videos](#)

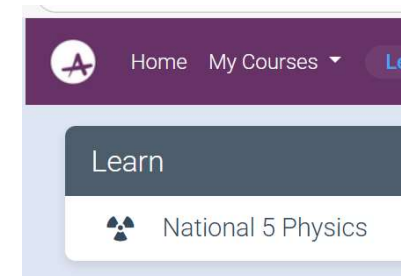


National 5 Physics - Gas laws & kinetic...

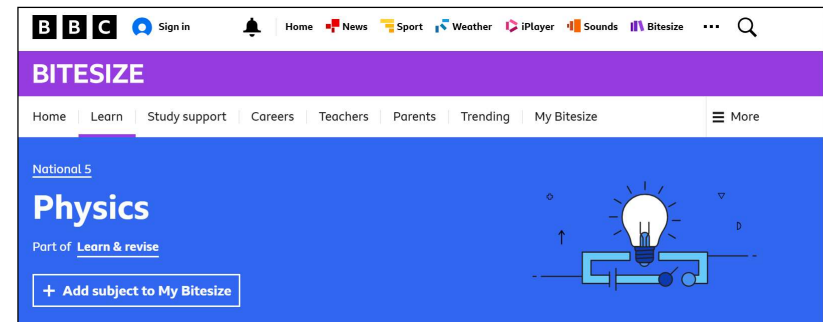
YouTube · Mr Smith's...
5.9K views · 26 Nov...



[Mr Smith's Physics - Bing Videos](#)



[N5 Physics - Achieve](#)



[National 5 Physics - BBC Bitesize](#)

Support ... for support @ home

So *how* can you support your child at home ?

- ❖ If you understand some of the theory / content :
 - ask them questions about the Topic they're working on
 - help them get good use of the resources mentioned above
 - check some of their work that they're doing
- ❖ Even if you don't understand the content :
 - ask them questions
 - what's going well
 - is there anything you need help with ?
 - do you need to speak with your teacher ?
- ❖ **You can always encourage them to :**
 - revise & summarise their notes, regularly
 - do lots of questions, including their HW and Past Papers
 - make their notes/work 'meaningful', with enough detail
 - take advantage of **Study Support Sessions offered in school**
...to get extra support with questions and/or the theory
 - be pro-active in asking for help ... or just for reassurance !
- ❖ Please contact the Physics staff for any more information.