

Exam Preparation Arrangements for Session 2025/26

- For 2025/26 Exam Preparation Time, study leave has been agreed from Wednesday 22 April to Tuesday 26 May inclusive. Schools can tailor start and finish dates within this period to suit their individual school context [SQA Exam Timetable 2026](#). However, study leave should not start before 22 April or extend beyond 26 May. Those pupils sitting exams after this period, listed below, should return to school the day following their final exam. This will apply to a relatively small number of pupils and it is up to schools to communicate with the relevant pupils, parents and staff accordingly.

- Wednesday 27 May** – Cantonese and Mandarin
- Thursday 28 May** – Italian and Practical Cookery
- Friday 29 May** – English for Speakers of Other Languages and Philosophy
- Monday 1 June** - Latin

Higher and Advanced Higher Maths is scheduled for Thursday 7 May. This is an in-service day due to the scheduled Scottish Parliamentary Election, with some schools being used as polling venues. Although public service routes will run as normal there will be no dedicated school transport operating that day which might be an issue for some pupils due to sit these exams. Could you please make pupils and parents aware of this situation and subsequently inform Fiona Grant - fiona.grant1@highland.gov.uk of any pupils who will have difficulty getting to school for these exams due to the lack of transport.

- All pupils who intend to leave school at the end of May** can take the full period of Exam Preparation Time, provided all outstanding course assessments have been completed. Pupils may follow available alternative programmes to meet individual needs during this time.
- All returners sitting 6 subjects at National 5 or 3 or more subjects at Higher or above**, may take the full period of Exam Preparation Time, provided all outstanding course assessments have been completed.
- All returners sitting no exams** should participate in a programme of skills for life, learning and work combined with possible work placements. This will be offered by a wide partnership of providers. These programmes may be organised on a local grouping basis. Some of this programme may involve project work to be completed out with school. Pupils may follow available alternative programmes to meet individual needs during this time.
- All returners sitting a mix of National 4/5 subjects or fewer than 3 subjects at Higher** may be allowed a reduced period of leave based on the timing and number of exams. The decision making for this will be agreed within schools, based on individual needs. Pupils may follow available alternative programmes to meet individual needs during this time.