



# SCA Brief Guide to the Scottish Curriculum

## Brief Guide # 4: Curriculum subject areas

The Scottish Curriculum for Excellence is organised under eight curriculum areas for all students up to the end of **Level 4**. These are:

- **Expressive Arts**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Languages**
- **Mathematics**
- **Religious and Moral Education**
- **Sciences**
- **Social Studies**
- **Technologies**

Each of these curriculum areas is, in turn, divided into a number of related subjects.

For example **Social Studies** is divided into three separate subjects:

### **People, past events and societies**

*We might think of this subject as History or Modern Studies*

### **People, place and environment**

*We might think of this subject as Geography*

### **People in society, economy and business**

*We might think of this subject as a mix of Citizenship, Politics, Sociology, Economics, Business*

Each subject in a curriculum area has a set of **Experiences and Outcomes** to be achieved by children and young people as they move through the **levels** of the curriculum. Local Authorities and schools are responsible for creating the programmes of work that their students undertake in order to achieve the **Experiences and Outcomes** in each curriculum area.

When students reach **Year 4** of secondary school they move into the **Senior Phase** of the curriculum. In this phase the subject areas are different, and the programmes of study are focussed on national qualifications achieved through coursework and exams.

There is a wide range of subjects available at the Senior Phase, but not all schools will offer all subjects. Examples of the most commonly available subjects are Maths, English, History, Geography, Modern Studies, Music, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Art, Religious Studies. Less widely available subjects include Philosophy, Classical Studies, Cantonese, Music Technology, Psychology.

A full list of subjects available at the Senior Phase can be found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41317.html>

The lists below show the breakdown of subjects within each curriculum area of the Curriculum for Excellence between **Level 1** and **Level 4**:

**Expressive Arts:**

- Participation in performances and presentations
- Art and design
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

**Health and Wellbeing:**

- Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
- Planning for choices and changes
- Physical education, physical activity and sport
- Food and health
- Substance misuse
- Relationships, sexual health and parenthood

**Languages**

- Classical Languages
- Gaelic
- Literacy and English
- Literacy and Gaelic
- Modern Languages

**Mathematics**

- Number, money and measure
- Shape, position and movement
- Information handling

**Religious and Moral Education**

- Christianity (or 'Catholic Christianity' in Catholic schools)
- World religions selected for study (or 'Other world religions' in Catholic Schools)
- Development of beliefs and values

**Sciences**

- Planet Earth
- Forces, electricity and waves
- Biological systems
- Materials
- Topical science

**Technologies**

- Technological developments in society
- ICT to enhance learning
- Business contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge
- Computing science contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge
- Food and textiles contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge

- Craft, design, engineering and graphics contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge