

## **Policy on National Assessment Bank tests (“NABs”)**

The Higher year is a short and intense one. Although a few students manage to achieve respectable or even good results at Standard Grade by dint of intensive revision and preparation over the Easter holiday, the same cannot be achieved at Higher, where the level and amount of work are far greater and spread over a much shorter time-period – about eight months, rather than one-and-a-half years.

It is a requirement of the Higher courses that, in order to achieve a pass grade, a student has passed the compulsory NAB tests as well as the final examination. These tests are held within Departments throughout the year.

In line with SQA recommendations, Queen Victoria School allows students to resit each NAB once if required. A second resit is allowed only under exceptional circumstances. Should a student fail all three attempts, the School reserves the right to withdraw that student from presentation for the subject’s public examination that year.

This policy has been drawn up with the best interests of the student at heart. Someone who gets to the stage of having failed a NAB test twice needs more support, guidance and reinforcement than simply being allowed to sit the test yet again. It may well be that the student’s overall work-load needs to be revised.

The best approach however is to go into and through the Higher year with a steady commitment to working conscientiously every week and preparing to do the best possible in each NAB test and in the prelims – as well as in the final examination.

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