



TOP 15 HOT TOPICS FOR HIGHER & N5 ENGLISH FOLIO



These are the strongest 2026–27 Higher English topics because they are current, debatable, researchable and capable of supporting more than one viewpoint.

1. PHONES IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS

Should Scotland introduce a complete ban on pupils' mobile phones during the school day?

Explore: concentration, behaviour, emergencies, additional support needs and personal freedom.

2. SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UNDER-16s

Should social-media platforms be banned for everyone under 16?

Explore: mental health, online safety, friendship, isolation, enforcement and age verification.

3. AI IN EDUCATION

Is artificial intelligence improving education or weakening independent thought?

Explore: accessibility, personalised support, cheating, creativity and preparation for employment.

4. AI COMPANIONS

Should children and teenagers be allowed to use AI chatbots for friendship and emotional support?

Explore: loneliness, accessibility, manipulation, harmful advice and dependence.

5. AI DEEPFAKES

Should creating a convincing deepfake of another person be a criminal offence?

Explore: consent, satire, misinformation, privacy and freedom of expression.

6. MISINFORMATION AND FREE SPEECH

Should social-media companies remove information they believe is false?

Explore: public safety, censorship, political bias and the difficulty of deciding what is true.



7. VOTING AT 16

Should 16-year-olds be allowed to vote in every UK election?

Explore: political knowledge, representation, maturity and decisions affecting young people's futures.

8. DIGITAL IDENTITY CARDS

Would a national digital identity system make life safer and easier—or threaten personal privacy?

Explore: convenience, fraud prevention, surveillance, data security and civil liberties.

9. ASSISTED DYING

Should terminally ill adults have the legal right to choose an assisted death?

Explore: dignity, personal choice, medical ethics, coercion and protection of vulnerable people.

10. THE HOUSING CRISIS

Are young people being denied a realistic chance of owning or securely renting a home?

Explore: house prices, rent, wages, social housing and generational inequality.

11. THE COST OF LIVING

Should governments guarantee every young person a basic standard of living?

Explore: wages, benefits, food poverty, public spending and individual responsibility.

12. CLIMATE ACTION

Should governments impose unpopular restrictions to tackle climate change?

Explore: urgency, personal freedom, corporate responsibility, employment and the cost of greener policies.

13. GAMBLING ADVERTISING

Should gambling advertising and sponsorship be removed completely from sport?

Explore: addiction, protection of children, personal choice, sports funding and industry responsibility.



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14. 🚬 TEENAGE VAPING

Should all disposable vapes be banned?

Explore: teenage health, help for adult smokers, environmental damage, illegal sales and personal choice.

15. 🍲 UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Should every secondary-school pupil receive free school meals, regardless of family income?

Explore: hunger, stigma, equality, health, waste and the cost to taxpayers.

******CHOOSING YOUR TOPIC******

Choose an issue that:

- ✓ Genuinely interests or concerns you.
- ✓ Has credible evidence available.
- ✓ Contains more than one reasonable viewpoint.
- ✓ Is focused enough to explore within 1,300 words.
- ✓ Allows you to reach a thoughtful conclusion.

Avoid choosing a topic simply because it sounds serious. A successful Higher essay needs an argument you can develop — not three copied statistics wearing a trench coat.