

HIGHER MODERN STUDIES

AWARD RECEIVED

Higher Modern Studies develops a range of skills. It encourages active learning in the study of contemporary society i.e. the world today. Pupils studying this course will acquire and be able to apply a range of relevant knowledge and skills in order to understand and explain **political, social and international issues**.

ENTRY LEVEL – What do I need to do it?

A good pass at National 5 Modern Studies is essential as is a good standard of written English.

COURSE CONTENT: What will I Learn?



1. Democracy in Scotland and the UK. Pupils will study a range of political issues e.g. Constitutional arrangements such as the Scottish Parliament and possible Independence; Political institutions and processes; voting systems and their impact, amongst others

2. Social Issues in the UK

Pupils will study social inequality in the UK and the impact on a group in society looking at evidence, theories, causes and impact of inequality. Attempts to tackle inequality and their effectiveness will be studied.

3. International Issues

Pupils will learn about a World Power – The United States of America. The focus will be on the political system, contemporary socio-economic issues and its role in international relations



TEACHING METHODS: what will I do?

- Discussion of key knowledge and issues
- Pupil completion of tasks and note-taking
- Group work – sometimes involving class presentations
- Mini-tests and quizzes to check understanding
- IT research

- Independent work on Assignment starting in December

ASSESSMENT: How will I be assessed?

As well as informal assessment such as questioning, mini tests and quizzes, pupils are required to sit 2 exams. **Paper 1** is made up of 3 essay questions; 2 x 20 mark essays and 1 x 12 mark essay. **Paper 2** is made up of 3 source based questions.

Pupils also have to submit an Assignment to the SQA (**30 marks**). This involves writing a report on a political, social or international issue, analysing evidence and coming to a conclusion.

HOMEWORK

- Regular revision of content acquired in class to keep up to speed
- Essays
- Source questions
- Revision for formal assessments and prelims
- Independent research and write up of assignment

Pupils should always be keeping up to date with political developments in Scotland, UK and USA through watching the news, online news websites or through social media newsfeeds.



PROGRESSION IN THE SENIOR PHASE

If you achieve Higher to a good standard, you can progress to AH Modern Studies in S6. You may also want to consider a Higher in another social subject such as Politics or History or Geography.