

Higher Modern Studies: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Higher Modern Studies course for Session 2018/19.

Higher Modern Studies Course Information

Higher Modern Studies candidates attend classes six periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom
- Social Inequality in the UK
- World Powers: The USA

Pupils are assessed by three components:

- Question Paper 1—an essay based exam paper worth 52 marks (1h 45 mins)
- Question Paper 2—a source based exam paper worth 28 marks (1h 15 mins)
- The Assignment—a 30 mark report pupils write in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked

The Modern Studies SQA Exams will take place on: **Wednesday 1st May 2019**

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher Modern Studies will always have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of writing essays or preparing for timed essays or source questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that all deadlines issued by class teachers are adhered to.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at lunchtime or after school. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of Homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Higher Modern Studies course leaves little time for consolidation in class therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising. This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers at home
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

Pupils should not be listening to music or using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out. This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities. *Any past paper questions/ essays/ example paragraphs completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback/ marking.*

Assessment

Unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates will be assessed by teachers in a number of ways including:

- Timed essays
- Timed Source Questions
- Knowledge Tests
- Homework essays

Pupils will always have advanced knowledge of these. The timed essays and source questions in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam. Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Voting Essay 1	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Voting Essay 2	Feb	Assignment & Social Inequalities
Oct	MSPs Essay & Pressure Groups Essay	Mar	Social Inequalities Essay 2 & 3
Nov	USA Essay 1 & 2	Apr	Various Revision Essays
Dec	USA Essay 3	Source Qs will be assessed throughout the course of the year	

The nature of Modern Studies means that Higher Modern Studies pupils are expected to remain up-to-date with national and international news on an ongoing basis. All pupils should be reading 3-4 articles from a broadsheet newspaper each week and watching a news programme such as BBC News, ITV News or Channel 4 News at least 3 times per week.

The Assignment

All Higher Modern Studies candidates must produce an extended report on a topic of their choice as part of the course. This is worth 30 marks and must be produced with minimal support from class teachers. This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to:

- Carry out required reading/ research and Identify suitable factual sources
- Plan and write the report
- Create a clearly referenced resource sheet
- Learn the report

Pupils will be working on this from November 2018.

Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoacsseniormodernstudies/> (Miss Devaney's Blog)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> (BBC News website)
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/ztsvr82> (BBC Bitesize Higher Modern Studies—Revision Notes, Quizzes, Video Clips)



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)

Other out of school activities which will benefit Higher Modern Studies pupils include:

- * Watching documentaries and weekly news programmes e.g Panorama & BBC Question Time
- * Reading a good quality newspaper