

Higher Politics: Guide for Parents and Carers

September 2018



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



Higher Politics Course Information

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

- Political Theory
- Political Systems
- Political Parties & Elections

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 essay pupils write in class under exam conditions which is sent to SQA to be marked

The Modern Studies SQA Exams will take place on: **Monday 29th April 2019**

Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Higher Politics 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. 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 should 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	<i>P. Systems E 1</i>	Jan	<i>Prelim</i>
Sep	<i>P. Theory 1, P. Systems 2 & SQ 1</i>	Feb	<i>P. Parties & Elections 2 & SQ 4</i>
Oct	<i>P. Systems 3 & SQ 2</i>	Mar	<i>P. Parties & Elections 3, SQ 5</i>
Nov	<i>P. Parties & Elections 1</i>	Apr	<i>Various Revision Essays & SQ</i>
Dec	<i>SQ 3</i>		

The Assignment

All Higher Politics 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 250 word resource sheet
- Learn the essay

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019.

Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoachigherpolitics/> (Class Blog)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> (BBC News website)
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <http://simplepolitics.co.uk/> (Simple Politics— up-to-date information on world politics)



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)

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

- * Watching documentaries and weekly news programmes e.g Panorama & BBC Question Time
- * Visiting local library for reading/ research
- * Reading a broadsheet newspaper