

Social Studies & RMPS

The Social Studies and RMPS Faculty offers a wide range of subjects from Levels 2-4 in the Broad General Education as well as National 3 to Advanced Higher in the senior phase. All available courses are listed below, including relevant links to SQA and BBC Bitesize.

Senior Courses

National 5 Retailing - Retail is an important part of the Scottish and UK economy.

The National 5 Retailing Course has been designed to provide an introductory qualification in retail that reflects employability skills identified as being important by many employers, including those within the retail sector.

National 4&5 Travel & Tourism - Travel and tourism is an important part of the Scottish and UK economy.

This course is designed to give an introductory SQA qualification in Travel and Tourism which will cover the skills needed to work in the sector. This course will also develop broad employability skills.

Assessment in both of these subject areas requires pupils to create a portfolio of all of their work, which teachers will assess, this is ongoing throughout the year.

There is no external exam for these courses.

Geography

Geography is a dynamic subject that deals with social, economic and environmental issues of real importance to people in the twenty-first century. Higher and National 4/5 Geography continues to develop students understanding of these issues by studying the following areas:

Physical Environments;

This is the study of the natural landscape. The topics studied for this unit in Higher are Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Lithosphere and Biosphere. In National 5 the topics studied are Coasts, Glaciation and Weather.

Human Environments;

This is the study of the interaction of people and their environment. The topics studied in this unit at both levels are Population, Urban, Industry and Rural.

Global Issues;

Students study in detail 2 of the 6 Global Issue topics. At Higher level the two topics studied are Global Climate Change and Development & Health. At National 5 the same units are studied.

History

Higher History increases learners' understanding of their society by helping them to appreciate how important aspects of society have developed in the past. The course will develop skills in analysing complex events, structuring reasoned arguments and presenting clear and balanced conclusions. Students will participate in debate and develop an attitude of open mindedness and tolerance. The course concentrates on 3 periods in History:

Britain 1851—1951

Germany 1815-1939

The Impact of the Great War 1914-1928

At National 5 level students evaluate different sources that will help them to understand historical events. They will develop skills in analysis, formulating clear arguments and coming to balanced conclusions. Students will examine events in the past allowing them to better understand the present. The course looks at:

Scottish - Era of the Great War 1900-1928;
British - Atlantic Slave Trade 1770-1807;
European & World - Civil Rights in the USA 1918-1968;

Modern Studies

Modern Studies further develops understanding of political, economic and social processes operating in the contemporary world. The course will develop skills in analysing issues, structuring reasoned arguments and presenting clear and balanced conclusions. Students will become more aware of the issues of the world around them. The course will enable students to make up their own minds about contemporary and often controversial, issues and to have confidence to express opinions. The course covers three topics:

Social Issues - Crime and the Law;
International Issues: Terrorism;
Democracy in Scotland;

RMPS

Advanced Higher RMPS

Advanced Higher RMPS offers an intellectually challenging and very rewarding opportunity to engage with contemporary religious, moral and philosophical debates. The course involves two units and a dissertation, which provide excellent preparation for university level study:

Philosophy of Religion

This unit focuses closely on two classical philosophical arguments for the existence of God as well as critiques of these. It also considers arguments for Atheism and the improbability of God.

Medical Ethics

This unit gives students the opportunity to think through very controversial moral issues, such as abortion, organ donation and euthanasia.

Dissertation

A detailed piece of research on a self-chosen religious, moral or philosophical topic.

Higher

Higher RMPS offers you the opportunity to develop your views on major issues that have a major impact on everyday life. The course concentrates on 3 topics:

Morality and Justice

We explore in depth the debates around the purposes of punishment, sentencing including the death penalty, as well as religious and non-religious arguments about justice and law.

The Existence of God

The focus will be on evaluating religious and non-religious arguments for and against the existence of a God.

Buddhism: Beliefs and Practices

We'll examine Buddhist beliefs and practices and assess how significant they are and what they mean for Buddhists and the rest of society.

National 4/5

National RMPS will explore the following topics:

Morality and Justice

We'll explore ideas about justice, the purposes of punishment and debate views on capital punishment.

Suffering and Evil

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why is there so much suffering in the world, and who or what is to blame?

Islam: Beliefs and Practices

Islam is one of the fastest growing religions and we'll look at Muslim's beliefs and practices to assess how important they are for Muslims and society.

People and Society

People and Society is a flexible and inter-disciplinary course (selecting aspects of Geography, History and/or Modern Studies) offering learners the opportunity to study themes, issues and topics.

Learners gain a range of skills which will enhance opportunities to engage positively in society, as well as knowledge and understanding of society and their place in it. Skills covered are investigating skills, comparing and contrasting and decision making.

The purpose of the course is to develop the pupil's knowledge and understanding of our changing world and its human and physical processes. This qualification will furnish pupils with the knowledge and skills to enable them to contribute effectively to the local communities and wider society.

Broad General Education

The BGE in Social Studies covers:

People in society, economy and business (Modern Studies);

In S1, pupils study topics on the Influence of the Media as well as features of a Democracy. In S2, pupils will study; International Conflict and Cooperation: Terrorism and International Human Rights.

People, past events and societies (History);

During S1 pupils will learn about the causes and impact of the Holocaust along with the causes and theories behind the sinking of the Titanic. In S2 pupils learn about the assassination of JFK and World War 2 from the Homefront.

People, place and environment (Geography);

In S1, pupils will develop their mapping skills along with examining Natural Regions around the world, including Deserts and Polar Lands. In S2 pupils will go on to study Natural Disasters, including their causes and impact, as well as studying Development and Disease to assess the causes, impact and responses to disease around the world.

The BGE in Religious and Moral Education (RME) covers:

The issue of Animals and food, here pupils learn about the moral, ethical and religious views surrounding the use of animals as food and entertainment. This includes: eating them, putting them to work, keeping them in zoos and using them as entertainment.

Pupils will also learning about Issues of Life and Death, where they will explore how humans make moral decisions relating to life and death. The unit covers four key areas: embryos and abortion, organ donation, capital punishment, and euthanasia and end of life options. During the unit learners will have to think about absolute and relative morality, religious and non-religious perspectives and key philosophical, legal, and ethical issues surrounding each of the key areas.

BBC Bitesize (from the levels below you can navigate to relevant subject areas):

National 5;

Higher;

BGE;