

# **Modern Studies**

## **National 4 and National 5**

### **AWARD RECEIVED:**

- National 4 Modern Studies is the equivalent of General Standard Grade.
- National 5 Modern Studies is the equivalent of Credit Standard Grade.

### **ENTRY LEVEL: What do I need to do it?**

- You do **not** need to have done **Elective Modern Studies** to do National 4 or 5 Modern Studies.
- **Anyone** can choose Modern Studies at the end of S3 and **most** pupils will be able to do National 4 or 5.
- Your S3 teacher will tell you what your recommended level of study would be at the end of S3.
- The same topics are covered for National 4 and 5 and a decision about your final level will be made towards the end of S4.

### **COURSE CONTENT: What will I learn?**

There are **three units** for National 4 and 5:

#### **Unit I – Crime and Law**

This unit covers a broad range of issues relating to crime. Firstly, you will have to consider what constitutes a crime in society. Then you will analyse what the main causes of crime are. Finally, how Scotland manages criminal offences and offenders will be evaluated and discussed.



#### **Unit II – China**



Over the last 30 years China has experienced enormous social and economic change; this development will form the core of your studies. Following an introduction to China, you will learn how the country is organised politically. Once completed, you will consider the impact of economic change on China. Finally, analysis will be made of the major social issues that are currently affecting the country, for example: migration, health care, crime and human rights.

#### **Unit III – Democracy in Scotland**

The final unit will introduce you to contemporary political life in Scotland. The types of representatives and how they work for their constituents will be reflected upon first. You will then look at Scotland's main political parties and electoral systems. Finally, you will be asked to complete a personal research project on one of the following topics: trade unions, pressure groups or the media.



## TEACHING METHODS: What will I do?

In the Modern Studies department you will be working as an individual for much of the time, however, paired, group and whole class activities will also take place. The lessons will focus on developing your reading and writing skills through participating in presentations, debates, investigations and so on. Your teachers will endeavour to make your learning as active and fun as possible. Modern Studies also teaches you many skills that you will use at university and in later life.

## ASSESSMENT: How will I be assessed?

	National 4	National 5
<b>Added Value</b> (This is SQA language for a piece of course-work.)	The Added value for National 4 is a <b>project</b> based one of the three units above. This will be marked by your teacher.	The Added Value for National 5 is an assignment in which you study a topic of your choice. Pupils must then complete a <b>one hour exam</b> on the assignment, which is marked by the SQA. It is worth <b>25%</b> of your final mark.
<b>Exam</b>	There is <b>no</b> end of course exam for National 4 Modern Studies.  To achieve a National 4 qualification in Modern Studies, you will need to pass all three unit assessments and your Added Value Project.	There <b>is</b> an end of course exam for National 5 Modern Studies. This lasts 90 minutes, is worth <b>75%</b> of your final mark and is <b>marked by the SQA</b> .  To achieve National 5 Modern Studies, you need to pass all three units, your Added Value Assignment and the final exam.



### HOMEWORK:

- You will be given regular homework for National 4 and 5 Modern Studies. Extra study will also be required at assessment times.

## PROGRESSION IN THE SENIOR PHASE:

- A National 4 pass would lead to National 5 in S5.
- A National 5 pass would lead to Higher in S5.