

Modern Studies

COURSE CONTENT – What will I learn?

Elective Modern Studies is **open to all students**.

The aim of Modern Studies is to provide students with an awareness of the world you live in today. In class you will be gaining knowledge about key social, political and economic issues and developing skills which can all be used in later life, whether at college, university or work.



The course examines issues which affect individuals and groups of people at local, national and international levels; it also develops the skills needed to make informed judgements on these issues and to establish a commitment to democratic values.

In the S2/3 course you will be studying the topics of;

- **Economics** – you will learn about poverty, the reasons for poverty, how Governments raise and spend money, how Capitalism works, and about multi-national companies.



- **UK society** – taking a look at various groups within UK society that face particular challenges, specifically the elderly, unemployed and the changing family unit.

- **Conflict and media** – taking a look at the different types of conflict; specific examples of conflicts such as Northern Ireland, the Middle East, Somalian pirates and terrorism group al-Qaeda; and different types of media and their influence. You will also learn about journalism by participating in BBC School Report.



TEACHING METHODS – What will I do?

In the Modern Studies department we use a variety of teaching methods. You will be working as an **individual** much of the time, but often in **pairs, groups** or as a **whole class**. You will be asked to complete a wide range of tasks, including **written tasks, presentations, posters, DVD tasks, role-plays, debates and internet research**. Your teachers will make your learning as **active and fun** as possible. In Modern Studies you will be asked to think about some of the biggest, most challenging questions that face the world today. You will look at critical issues that have caused politicians throughout the world many a headache! Modern Studies also teaches you many **skills** that you will use at university and in later life, such as **critical thinking, presenting information to an audience, evaluating, essay-writing, debating and arguing**.



ASSESSMENT AND HOMEWORK

Assessment in Modern Studies will focus on your knowledge and understanding, thinking skills and research, evaluation and presentation skills. There will be regular end of topic tests but assessment is no longer just about tests. There will be opportunities to show what you have learned in other ways too – for example by doing investigations, projects or by acting in a short play!

HOMEWORK



Regular homework will be set, increasing as the course progresses. Each unit has specific homework exercises which are marked and recorded. Students are also encouraged to be familiar with current affairs, either by reading a newspaper, watching news programmes on TV or reading news websites on the internet.

COSTS

There are no costs for Modern Studies.