

Modern Studies

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

COURSE CONTENT - What will I learn?

The aim of Modern Studies is to provide students with an awareness of the world we live in today. The course examines a wide range of issues which affect individuals and groups of people right across the world. It is our hope that by studying these issues you will come to embrace the values of **wisdom, compassion, justice and integrity**, as well as essential skills such as **critical thinking, presenting information, evaluating, essay-writing, debating and literacy**.

The skills that you will learn through this course will be useful to you at college, university or in work, but will also enable you to become a **responsible citizen** and an **effective contributor** in our modern world.

During the S2/3 course you will be studying a total of six units:

Economics - you will learn about how the global economy works and look at key concepts such as Socialism and Capitalism. You will also learn how businesses work and consider the impact international businesses have - particularly in less wealthy countries.

Malawi - this unit will focus on the country of Malawi and its links with Scotland. During the course we will examine some of the problems faced by the country and consider potential solutions.

The European Union - we will look at the European Union as well as the 27 countries that are members. We will also look at the UK's decision to leave (Brexit) and the arguments in favour and against this decision.



Conflict around the World - this unit looks at the causes, impact and consequences of conflict in Syria and Somalia. This includes an in-depth look at the rise of ISIS as well as the various attempts by the UN and NATO to resolve these conflicts.

Media - in this unit we look at the role of the media in a free society as well as the issues journalists face in investigating and reporting news stories in dictatorships.

Human Rights in China - as China continues to become more powerful we will study Human Rights more generally before looking at a variety of Human Rights issues in China. This will include a look at the Uighur Muslims and the recent protests in Hong Kong.



TEACHING METHODS - How will I learn?

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, role-plays, debates and online research. Your teachers will make your learning as active and fun as possible. I pads will also be used and integrated into our learning as much as possible.



ASSESSMENT AND HOMEWORK



Assessment in Modern Studies will focus on your knowledge and understanding, as well as thinking skills and research, evaluation and presentation skills. There will be some tests at the end of topics but 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!

Students are encouraged to be familiar with current affairs, either by reading a newspaper, watching news programmes on TV or reading news websites on the internet. Regular homework will be set, increasing as the course progresses. Modern Studies Department resources are available via Glow, which can be easily accessed from home.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We run a range of clubs and societies in the Social Subjects Faculty that will enhance the knowledge and skills developed in Modern Studies. They're also a great opportunity to make new friends and to get involved in making the world a better place.

Eco Club - Ms Watterson (M37)

Model United Nations - Mr McMordie (M24)

Peebles Pride - Ms Fyfe (M30)

Student Parliament - Mr McMordie (M24)

