**S3 Modern Studies**

**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 S3 course you will be studying a total of three units:

**S3**

**Conflict** – this unit looks at the causes, impact and consequences of conflict all around the world. This includes studying the US-Mexico Drug Wars, the rise of Islamic Terrorism, the conflict in Ukraine and more. We also look at the role of the United Nations in attempting to solve conflict.

**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.

**USA** – This topic is part of the National 5 course. You will learn about the superpower that is the USA. This unit will focus on a range of topical issues in the USA, such as gun violence, immigration, politics and elections. You will look in depth at some of the challenges facing America today.

**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. Ipads will also be used and integrated into our learning as much as possible.

**ASSESSMENT AND HOMEWORK**

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| students working together clipart law pic team work 2 | emmauswylie | Group  work, Cooperative learning, Collaborative learning | 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 research and projects. |

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 Teams and OneNote, both of which can be accessed from home via your Ipads.

**PATHWAYS AFTER S3 MODERN STUDIES**

Students can continue to study Modern Studies by taking N4/5 Modern Studies or N3/N4 Social Subjects. In S5 students can study Modern Studies at Higher and we also offer Higher Politics and NPAs in Criminology and Legal Studies.