

## **MODERN STUDIES – HIGHER**

### **Why Modern Studies?**

This course gives you the opportunity to increase your knowledge of contemporary issues within Scotland and the wider world and to develop deeper understanding of political and social affairs.

### **Entry to the course**

Pupils are expected to have gained at least an A-C pass in National 5 Modern Studies or in another Social Subject. If you have not sat any Social Subjects previously, we would expect at least a B in National 5 English.

### **Course Outline**

#### **Modern Studies: Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom (Higher)**

Learners will study topics such as: the United Kingdom constitutional arrangement including the role of the Scottish Parliament and other devolved bodies and the impact of UK membership of the European Union; the study of political institutions and processes; voting systems and their impact; the impact of a range of factors which affect voting behaviour; and the ways in which citizens are informed about, participate in, and influence the political process.

#### **Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom (Higher)**

Learners will focus on a contemporary aspect of social inequality in the UK and the impact on a group in society. They will focus on topics such as inequality relating to a specific social group; evidence, theories and causes; the impact of inequality; and the attempts to tackle inequality and their effectiveness.

#### **Modern Studies: International Issues (Higher)**

The learners will focus on the USA and will learn about its political system, contemporary socio-economic issues and its role in international relations.

### **Assessment**

There are three unit assessments and a final exam. The final exam consists of one paper which assesses both knowledge, through extended answers and skills, through the analysis of sources of information.

Pupils are also required to complete an assignment in the form of a report on a contemporary issue of their choice. This will be completed in school under exam conditions but marked by the SQA and will form part of their overall mark.

**Further advice and information is available from Mr MacKay or Mrs Reid.**