

MODERN STUDIES: NATIONAL 4/5

Why Modern Studies? - The purpose of Modern Studies is to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and social issues in local, Scottish, United Kingdom and international contexts. This purpose will be achieved through successful study of the Course Units which focus on the democratic political system in Scotland and the UK, social issues in the UK and international issues.

Through the Modern Studies Course, learners will undertake a coherent study of contemporary society with concepts and themes being revisited and built upon across Units. It will develop the skills to help learners interpret and participate in the social and political processes they will encounter now and in the future.

Entry to the Course - The Modern Studies course will be offered at various levels to suit the learning needs of all pupils. Enthusiasm for the subject is all that is required.

Course Outline - Pupils will study three units:

- Social Issues in the United Kingdom: Crime and the Law (in this unit pupils will build on their learning in S3)
- Democracy in Scotland
- International Issues: China

Assessment -

At National 3 and National 4 pupils complete assessments at the end of each of the three units. At National 4 there is also an assignment which will allow learners to apply a range of skills as they research a contemporary issue. Learners have a high degree of choice in the theme or event chosen for study and will have a high degree of flexibility in how they present their findings in order to best demonstrate their Modern Studies skills, knowledge and understanding.

At National 5 there will be an assignment which will allow learners to apply a range of skills as they research a contemporary issue. This will be marked by the SQA and will form part of the overall grade awarded. There is an external exam at the end of the year, which will also be used to determine a pupil's overall grade.

For further advice speak to Mr MacKay or Mrs Ellis.