

## **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**

You 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)**

You will study topics such as: Possible alternatives to the future governance of Scotland; 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)**

You will focus on social inequality in the UK and its impact on groups in society. You 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)**

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

### **Assessment**

The final exam consists of two papers, which assesses both knowledge, through extended answers and skills, through the analysis of sources of information.

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

**Further advice and information is available from Mr MacKay, Mrs Slavin, Mr Sheerin, Mr Whiteford or Mrs Reid.**