

MODERN STUDIES: NATIONAL 4/5

Why Modern Studies? - The purpose of Modern Studies is to develop your 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 topics which focus on the democratic political system in Scotland, social issues in the UK and international issues.

Through the Modern Studies course, you will undertake a coherent study of contemporary society with concepts and themes being revisited and built upon across topics. It will develop the skills to help you interpret and participate in the social and political processes you 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 - You will study three units:

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

Assessment -

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

At National 5 there will be an assignment which will allow you to apply a range of skills as you 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 your overall grade.

For further advice, speak to Mr MacKay, Mrs Reid, Mr Sheerin, Mrs Ellis or Mr Whiteford.