

Modern Studies

Advanced Higher

Recommended Entry Requirements

C or above
in Higher
Modern
Studies



Course Content

The course uses a multidisciplinary approach to develop candidates' knowledge and understanding.

Pupils will study:

Power and influence

- influences on the political process, including interest groups and the media
- power and influence of political parties
- electoral systems and theories of voting behaviour

Political Ideology

- political ideologies, including Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism
- contemporary relevance of ideology to political parties, including Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism
- influence of ideology on contemporary political issues

Skills Developed

Candidates develop the skills to interpret and participate in the social and political processes they encounter in their lives. The course aims to enable candidates to:

- analyse the complex political and social processes that lead to an understanding of contemporary society
- understand and analyse complex political or social issues in the UK and adopt a comparative international approach
- develop a range of independent practical research skills that allow them to carry out research into a contemporary issue
- present complex ideas in a range of ways
- analyse, evaluate, and synthesise a range of sources relating to complex issues
- develop a knowledge and understanding of social science research methods
- apply a multidisciplinary approach drawing on analysis from a range of social sciences

Assessment

Exam Paper

90 marks, 64% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

Each section of the question paper has two parts:

Part A consists of a question from each topic (Power and Influence & Political Ideology) Candidates attempt two 30-mark extended-response questions from a choice of three.

Part B consists of questions from the Research Methods topic. Candidates attempt both questions:

- one 15-mark question on research methods
- one 15-mark question about the trustworthiness of a source

Related Careers

Politics, sociology, international relations, law and/or other social science courses, journalism and the media, civil and public service, social work, human relations and in the third sector etc.

Michelle Obama, Jerry Springer, Rebel Wilson, James Blunt and Gerard Butler all have Modern Studies-related degrees!

