

# Modern Studies

## National 5

### Recommended Entry Requirements

- interest in Modern Studies
- enthusiasm in the subject
- an understanding of what the course entails
- respect for faculty expectations

### Progression through Modern Studies

Higher  
Modern  
Studies

Higher  
Politics

There is also potential to 'crash' other Social Subjects courses for pupils who are interested in the subject and are willing to work hard

### Course Content

The National 5 Modern Studies course encourages candidates to develop a greater understanding of the contemporary world and their place in it. They also have opportunities to develop important attitudes such as respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas; and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship.

The course emphasises the development and application of skills with a focus on evaluating sources and making decisions develops thinking skills, as well as skills in literacy and numeracy. Investigative and critical thinking activities give candidates opportunities to gain important experience in contributing to group work and working on their own.

Pupils will study 3 topics, these will include:

#### World Issue - Development in Africa

- Causes of poverty in Africa
- Consequences of poverty
- Attempts to reduce poverty
- Evaluation of international organisations tackling poverty

#### Social Issues in the UK - Crime and the Law

- What is crime?
- Causes and impact of crime
- Efforts to tackle crime
- The criminal justice system in Scotland

#### Democracy in Scotland and the UK - Democracy in Scotland

- Representation
- Electoral Systems
- Participation
- Influence
- Power and Decision Making

### Skills Developed

A range of research and information-handling skills including: evaluating information/ evidence in order to support and oppose a view; making decisions and drawing conclusions; constructing detailed arguments; communicating views, opinions, decisions and conclusions based on evidence

### Assessment

#### Exam Paper

2 hours 20 minutes, 80 marks

The question paper has three sections. Candidates must answer one part from each section that they have studied.

#### National 5 Assignment

1 hour, marked externally

Candidates have an open choice of a Modern Studies topic or issue. Their choice should refer to a contemporary political, social or international issue. The assignment should be completed in exam conditions

### 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!

