

Modern Studies

Higher

Recommended Entry Requirements

C or above
in National 5
Modern
Studies

S5/S6 pupils can 'crash' Higher Modern Studies but are encouraged to discuss prior course choice, plans for further/higher education and occupations with teachers; an understanding of the course is expected



Course Content

This course encourages candidates to develop a greater understanding of the contemporary world and their place in it. They 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.

Pupils will study 3 topics, these will include:

International Issue - World Power: USA

- Social & Economic Issues (and their impact on a specific group)
- Government efforts to reduce social and economic inequalities
- International Influence
- Extent to which the political system allows democratic participation
- Political institutions and their ability to dominate government decision making
- Social Issues

Social Inequalities: Health & Wealth

- Causes of health and wealth inequality
- Effects of health and wealth inequality
- The effectiveness of measures taken to tackle inequalities, including government measures
- The individualist/collectivist debate
- Political Issues

Democracy in the UK

- The effectiveness of parliamentary representatives holding the government to account
- Strengths and weaknesses of electoral systems
- Factors influencing voting behaviour systems
- The implications of the UK's decision to leave the EU
- The ability of citizens to influence decision making

Skills Developed

- Developing and applying factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding, and giving detailed explanations and analysis
- Analysing, evaluating and synthesising a wide range of evidence which may be written, numerical and graphical
- Researching, analysing, evaluating and synthesising a wide range of evidence which may be written, numerical and graphical to make and justify decisions in contexts which may be familiar or unfamiliar

Assessment

Exam Paper 1

Candidates answer three questions which assess knowledge and understanding and higher-order skills of analysis and evaluation
1 hour 45 minutes, 32 marks

Exam Paper 2

This question paper has a total allocation of 28 marks

Assignment

1 hour 30 minutes, 30 marks, marked externally by the SQA.

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!

