

MODERN STUDIES (Higher)

What are the aims of this course?

The course develops understanding of the political and social processes operating in the contemporary world. Pupils should extend their knowledge of contemporary issues and develop skills of evaluating that they may have been introduced to at National 5 Modern Studies

Modern Studies also contributes to personal and social development. In particular, the course addresses the area of rights and responsibilities. This includes the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society and the moral and ethical responsibilities of individuals.

Higher Modern Studies makes a distinctive contribution to the curriculum. Study of the course develops an understanding of fundamental processes which underpin political and social life.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

National 5 Modern Studies or in History/Geography and/or English

What content is included in this course?

A mixture of national and international units will be studied:

Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom

Social Issues in the United Kingdom – Social Inequality

International Issues - World Power-The USA

Assignment

What skills will I develop?

Pupils will develop the skill of analysis and arguing objectively about political, social and economic issues. Extended essay writing will be assessed.

The Modern Studies course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship. The investigative and critical thinking activities in this course give learners important experience in contributing to group work and also working on their own.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

The emphasis in the department is on a variety of teaching approaches. Group-work exercises, debates, presentations and traditional teaching methods are all utilised. The use of contemporary audio-visual material `brings the subject alive`.

All the above learning and teaching approaches have proved effective and popular with pupils taking Higher Modern Studies.

Conditions of Award

To gain the award of the course, the pupil must pass the course assessment. This will consist of an exam and **Assignment** .Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the course award.

The course assessment will consist of two components: - A question paper and an Assignment completed by March.