

**DEPARTMENT****MODERN STUDIES****TITLE OF COURSE****MODERN STUDIES****LEVEL****HIGHER****RECOMMENDED ENTRY LEVELS****National 5 Modern Studies A or B pass or other social subject.****COURSE CONTENT:**

Higher Modern Studies develops an understanding of the processes which determine our political and social life. These processes are studied at local, national and international contexts. There are three units covered in the course.

**UNIT 1: Democracy in Scotland and the UK**

This unit involves a study of the UK and Scottish political systems and constitutional arrangements, including the Scottish Parliament and EU, a study of the present electoral system and alternatives to it; voting patterns and explanations of voting behaviour and how political attitudes are shaped, including how we can participate and are represented at all levels of government.

**UNIT 2: Social Issues in the UK: Social Inequality**

This unit is a study of the causes and consequences of inequalities within the UK. Evidence of these inequalities will be examined, along with causes and consequences for specific groups such as women or families. Government responses to inequality will be analysed at both the Scottish and UK levels.

**UNIT 3: International Issues**

**World Power: South Africa** – studying the legacy of apartheid and the problems of political transition. Recent social, economic and political change in South Africa will be studied to assess the amount of progress that has been made in relation to education, health, crime and employment. The wider role of South Africa as a regional and world power, membership of BRICS and G20 will be covered.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Throughout the course you should develop important skills including the ability to handle and analyse complex data. You will build on the evaluation skills learned at National 5 such as detecting bias and formulating and sustaining lines of argument. You will participate in debate and discussion and will be expected to keep abreast of current affairs. As knowledge and understanding forms a significant focus of assessment you will be expected to learn large amounts of information. Essay writing skills will be learned and practiced in class.

**ASSESSMENT**

Regular homework and class assessments will be given to ensure thorough preparation for the final exam. There are three internal assessments which must be passed to gain an overall course award. Thorough preparation for internal assessments is essential. Reassessment, should it be needed, will take place outwith normal class time.

In addition there is a Higher Assignment which is worth 1/3 of the overall marks (30 marks from 90). Candidates will be expected to research an issue and prepare evidence to then, under exam conditions, write a recommendation for a course of action, justify a decision etc.

There will also be a final exam lasting 2 hours 15 minutes. The exam will consist of 5 questions,

some of which will be source based questions, whilst others will be essay based, with marks ranging between 12 and 20 marks per essay. The course award is given upon successful completion of each unit assessment and the final exam.