

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 social and economic life. These processes are studied at local, national and international contexts. There are three units covered in the course. These include:

UNIT 1: Political Issues in the UK

Learners will gain an understanding of the roles of representatives and Parliaments across the UK, principally of MPs and the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. They will be able to evaluate how citizens participate, reasons for voting and how political attitudes are shaped. The role of pressure groups, the Prime Minister and Cabinet will be evaluated.

UNIT 2: Social Issues in the UK

Learners will focus on social inequality and study a contemporary aspect of social inequality in the UK and the impact on a group in society. They will focus on topics such as the nature of social inequality; theories and causes of inequality; the impact of inequality; and the attempts to tackle inequality and their effectiveness.

UNIT 3: International Issues

World Issue: learners will focus on the issue of conflict, its causes and consequences with a particular focus on the war in Syria. Learners will evaluate the response of the international community to the conflict.

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 the main 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. Each study theme is assessed either at the end of the unit. 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.