

<b><u>DEPARTMENT:</u></b>	<b>MODERN STUDIES</b>
<b><u>TITLE OF COURSE:</u></b>	<b>MODERN STUDIES</b>
<b><u>LEVEL:</u></b>	<b>National 4 - 5</b>
<b><u>RECOMMENDED ENTRY LEVELS:</u></b>	<b>Completion of S3 Modern Studies or N4 in Modern Studies or another Social Subject if in S5</b>

Modern Studies develops an understanding of contemporary political, social and international issues. Learners will begin to formulate their own ideas and opinions and understand the issues which underpin these

### **Unit 1 Political issues in Scotland**

This will involve a study of the political processes in Scotland. Learners will develop their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as Scottish and UK citizens, the process of voting and an evaluation of the electoral system used in all elections in Scotland. Learners will develop a knowledge and understanding of the Scottish political structure including the role of the Scottish Parliament and Government. They will develop an understanding of how councillors and MSPs operate and how individuals can seek to bring about political change through voting and membership of pressure groups.

### **Unit 2 Social Issues in the UK**

This unit involves a study of the causes and consequences of crime and responses to crime, such as prisons and alternatives to prison. Learners will develop an understanding of how organisations such as the police seek to tackle crime and its causes.

### **Unit 3 International Issues**

In S4 we will study the USA to understand how ideology can affect how a country tackles its social and economic problems. Issues of race inequalities will be covered as well as political issues and the US system of government.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

During the course, you will enhance the skills of evaluating (detecting bias, sustaining lines of argument etc) and develop new skills in decision making whilst also increasing your knowledge of social, political and international issues. You will participate in debate and discussion and will be expected to keep abreast of current affairs by reading newspapers and watching the news. There will be opportunities to learn using new technology. There will be opportunities for class visits and visiting speakers throughout the two years. Regular homework will be given to enhance learning.

### **ASSESSMENT:**

There will be unit assessments which must be passed at National 4 and an Added Value unit which will encompass choosing an issue for study from those covered in the S3/4 course. Learners will have to investigate the issue and present their findings.

At National 5 level students will complete end of topic tests to assess their progress and continued suitability for the National 5 course assessment (exam). There will also be an additional assignment worth 20% of the final grade, based on researching a topic of their choice. National 5 learners have to analyse their research methods, describe the findings and draw conclusions, this is completed under exam conditions and assessed by the SQA. The N5 exam consists of one paper which is 2 hour 20 minutes in duration and accounts for 80% of the overall mark.