

<u>DEPARTMENT:</u>	MODERN STUDIES
<u>TITLE OF COURSE:</u>	MODERN STUDIES
<u>LEVEL:</u>	National 4 - 5
<u>RECOMMENDED ENTRY LEVELS:</u>	Completion of S3 Modern Studies, National 4 in any other social subject.

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 organisations in the UK, including the role of the monarch, House of Commons and House of Lords. 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 both UK and Scottish elections. 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. The independence referendum will be covered.

Unit 2 Social Issues: Crime and Law in the UK

This unit involves a study of the theories and causes of crime, as well as the impact and consequences of crime. The role of law in society, duties of the police and courts and the effectiveness of ways to tackle crime eg prisons.

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.

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 within each unit at both National 4 and 5 levels. There will also be 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 must pass all unit assessments and the course assessment (exam) to gain a course award. There will also be an additional assignment worth 25% of the final grade, based on their Value added unit. National 5 learners have to analyse their research methods and draw conclusions, this is completed under exam conditions and assessed by the SQA.