

Modern Studies N4/5

Modern Studies opens up the world of contemporary society for learners.

The purpose of Modern Studies is to develop the learner's knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and social issues in local, Scottish, United Kingdom and international contexts. In these contexts, learners will develop an awareness of the social and political issues they will meet in their lives. This purpose will be achieved through successful study of the four Units of the Course:

Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom:

In this Unit, learners will develop skills by using sources of information in order to detect and explain examples of bias, exaggeration and selectivity. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom by studying: **Representation, Participation and Campaigning in Scottish Politics and the influence of the media.**

Social Issues in the United Kingdom:

In this Unit, learners will develop skills by using sources of information in order to make and give justifications of decisions. Learners will develop a knowledge and understanding of social issues in the United Kingdom by studying: **Crime and the Law.**

International Issues:

In this Unit, learners will develop skills by using sources of information in order to draw and support valid conclusions. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of international issues by studying: **The USA.**

Added Value Unit: Modern Studies Assignment

In this Unit, learners will choose an issue for personal study. They will research their chosen issue and present their findings. They will have opportunities to experience challenge and application as they further develop and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired in the other three Units of the Course.

Modern Studies makes a distinctive contribution to the curriculum by drawing on the social sciences of politics, sociology and economics and where appropriate, of associated ideas drawn from other social subjects. It thereby adopts a multi-disciplinary approach.

Assessment:

N4/5 Modern Studies pupils will continue to experience continuous assessment. Pupils will continue to contribute a wide variety of evidence to the folio of work they have developed throughout S1-3 Modern Studies.

In addition all pupils will undertake **end of unit assessments** where they will be required to complete both, knowledge based and source based questions in an exam environment.

- N4 and N5 pupils will be assessed internally, based on the continuously generated **course work**.
- N5 pupils will also be required to successfully complete an externally assessed **exam**.

Homework:

Modern Studies pupils are expected to maintain and develop their knowledge of social, economic and political issues.

Formal homework is usually issued weekly and is drawn from:

- Comprehension questions
- Exam-style Knowledge-based questions
- Exam-style Source-based questions
- Revision activities

Weekly homework activities will take pupils **30-45 minutes** to complete (study support will be available), during periods of revision pupils will be required to undertake **significantly more** home learning in order to

achieve their maximum potential in assessments.

Progression:

- Success in N4 Modern Studies leads to:
- N5 Modern Studies or N5 Sociology, which leads to:
- Higher: Modern Studies, Sociology and/or Politics.

Modern Studies is recognised by the Russell Group of the UK's top 20 Universities as a 'traditional subject' and is recommended for progression to law, humanities and social science university courses and careers.