

Supporting Your Learner

Higher Modern Studies

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Course Outline

In Higher Modern Studies pupils study three main areas;

- Political Issues – Democracy in Scotland
- Social Issues – Health and Wealth in the UK
- International Issues: World Powers – China

Pupils will also complete a research assignment and report which will account for 33% of their overall grade. Candidates will also undertake a final SQA exam which will be comprised of essay and source based questions on these three areas of study

Higher candidates should aim to carry out regular independent research throughout the year – paying specific attention to news and quality newspaper articles which are relevant to the course.



Exam Preparation

As the Higher Modern Studies exam approaches, pupils should carry out as much timed practise of exam questions as possible, as well as increasing the volume of research they complete. Source analysis questions and knowledge questions both require strict time management and pupils should be encouraged to practise under timed conditions. The Modern Studies exam is broken up into three sections each worth 20 marks. 45 minutes is allocated to each 20 mark section and pupils should help prepare by practising both 20 mark essays or completing a source analysis and a 12 mark extended response question in that time. Pupils will have the opportunity to carry out exam practise in class also.

Useful Websites

Higher Modern Studies candidates should use a wide range of websites to help them prepare and develop throughout the course. However, the most valuable way to enhance their knowledge is to regularly research the relevant issues that are in the news currently. Thus websites such as; The [BBC](#), [Guardian](#), [Telegraph](#), [Independent](#), [Scotsman](#) or any other quality newspaper will be of great use. Watching television programmes such as [Question Time](#), [Newsnight](#) and [Sunday Politics](#) will also greatly help their understanding of key issues in Modern Studies.

Useful Textbooks

The following websites sell revision and course notes as well as past papers. We have a sample copy in the department of most Modern Studies textbooks and can offer individual advice on what the best option for each pupil may be.

- [Hodder Education](#)
- [Leckie and Leckie](#)
- [Bright Red Publishing](#)



Revision Classes

Currently Higher revision classes are offered by Miss Bulloch on a Wednesday and either Miss Bulloch or Mr Redford on a Tuesday and Thursday. Pupils are also always welcome to seek out either teacher for advice at lunch or at the start or end of the day.

SQA Past Papers

The link below will allow you to access the most recent past examination papers as well as specimen papers produced by the SQA. There are also Marking Schemes on this page.

[SQA Higher Modern Studies Past Papers](#)

Understanding Standards

The link below to the SQA website will allow you to see where markers have awarded marks to exemplar papers and read the markers' comments on the candidate's response. It is especially helpful in identifying where marks are awarded for analysis and for knowledge.

[Understanding Standards: Higher Modern Studies](#)

