

Why Modern Studies?

Modern Studies examines the society we live in. You will learn about democracy, social issues, international issues and how people view the government. You will develop skills such as communication, creative thinking, critical evaluation of the media and use of information technology.

Course outline

Modern Studies helps to develop your understanding of how modern society is organised. You will study different organisations and evaluate how effective they are in meeting their aims. You will learn how human and legal rights and responsibilities are represented in society. You will develop a range of research and information handling skills.

MODERN STUDIES HIGHER

Details of Course Components

The course has three compulsory units plus an added value unit that assesses your practical skills.

Modern Studies: Democracy in Scotland and the UK

In this unit you will increase your understanding of the democratic political system in the UK. This includes the use of relevant case studies from the UK. You will learn about:

- the implications of the UK's decision to leave the European Union
- the effectiveness of parliamentary representatives in holding government to account
- the strengths and weaknesses of different electoral systems used in elections within the UK
- factors which influence voting behaviour including class, age and media
- ways in which citizens can influence government decision-making, including pressure groups.

Modern Studies: Social Inequality in the UK

In this unit you will focus on the impact of social inequality. You will learn about:

- reasons why income and wealth inequality exists
- reasons why health inequalities exist
- effects of inequality on a group or groups in society
- the individualist and collectivist debate
- the effectiveness of measures taken to tackle inequalities, including government measures

Modern Studies: United States of America

In this unit you will focus on political and socio-economic issues in the USA.

You will learn about:

- the extent to which the political system allows democratic participation
- political institutions and their ability to dominate government decision-making
- socio-economic inequality and its impact on a specific group in society
- the effectiveness of government responses to socio-economic inequality
- the international influence of the USA

Modern Studies: Added Value Unit & Assignment—27% overall grade

In this unit you will:

- choose an issue to research using a range of skills
- write up the assignment using a structured template under exam conditions within 1.5 hours
- choose and use a variety of research methods to learn more about your chosen issue such as surveys, interviews, observations, reading, the media and the internet.

Details of Course Assessments

Your work will be assessed by your teacher on an on-going basis throughout the course. Items of work might include:

- written work, research assignments, reports, projects and case studies
- class-based exams and unit assessments.

You will also sit a **written exam** marked by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA), which is written in two sittings: **Question Paper 1 (47% overall grade)** and **Question Paper 2 (26% overall grade)**. You must pass all the course units, the overall written exam (the Added Value Unit and the exam paper in May) to be awarded the course qualification. The exam will consist of a mixture of knowledge and skill-based questions. The course assessment is graded A-D. Your grade will depend on the total mark for all the units in your course.



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Geography Staff:

Mr Michael Forsyth
Miss Shakira Alecio

History Staff:

Mr George Baird PT
Mrs Fran Mottashaw

Modern Studies Staff:

Mrs Alison Gray
Mr Mark Pye
Ms Samantha Thiel

RMPS Staff:

Mrs Stephanie Chalmers

Courses in Turriff Academy:

National 4 Geography
National 5 Geography
Higher Geography
Advanced Higher Geography

National 4 History
National 5 History
Higher History
Advanced Higher History

National 4 Modern Studies
National 5 Modern Studies
Higher Modern Studies

Higher Politics

National 4 RMPS
National 5 RMPS
Higher RMPS

Useful websites to help you with your choices:

www.myworldofwork.co.uk
www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

Further advice and information on these options is available from your subject teacher, guidance teacher and careers adviser.