

## 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 including an added value unit that assesses your practical skills.

### **Modern Studies: Democracy in Scotland and the UK**

In this unit you will:

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

### **Modern Studies: the United States of America**

In this unit you will:

focuses 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
- Effectiveness of government responses to socio-economic inequality
- The international influence of the USA

### **Added Value Unit: Modern Studies 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.
- a variety of **research methods** will be chosen and used by the pupils to learn more about their chosen issue such as surveys, interviews and newspapers.

## ASSESSMENT

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 and case studies
- projects
- class-based exams and unit assessments
- You will also sit a **written exam which is in two sittings—Question Paper 1 (47% overall grade) and Question Paper 2 (26% overall grade)** marked by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA).

You must pass the all the course units including the practical assessment plus the written exam 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..



## 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 Theil

### 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  
Advanced 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](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)  
[www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk)

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