

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 NATIONAL 5

Details of Course Components

The course has three compulsory units plus an added value unit that assesses your practical skills. The units are the same as those for National 4, but you will produce a higher standard of work.

Modern Studies: Democracy in Scotland

In this unit you will:

- use sources of information to detect and explain examples of exaggeration and selectivity in the use of facts
- increase your knowledge and understanding of democracy in Scotland, our place within UK politics and debates around this arrangement
- learn about the ways people are able to participate in and influence the political system
- learn about your rights and responsibilities in a democratic political society.

Modern Studies: Crime and the Law

In this unit you will:

- learn how to use sources of information to make decisions and justify them in detail
- increase your knowledge and understanding of crime and the law
- examine the causes of crime, how crime affects individuals and society, and the role of individuals, the police, the court system and punishments given by the courts.

Modern Studies: Aid and Development in Africa

In this unit you will:

- learn how to use sources of information to draw and give detailed support for conclusions
- further develop your knowledge and understanding of Aid in Africa
- learn about the causes and consequences of international issues, and attempts at resolution.
- increase your knowledge and understanding of differences between developed/developing nations and how/why developed nations give aid
- learn about the role of international organisations in improving conditions in developing nations.

Modern Studies: Added Value Unit & Assignment—20% 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 hour
- 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 and case studies
- projects
- class-based exams and unit assessments.

You will also sit a **written exam** marked by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA), which makes up **80% of your overall grade**. You must pass 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.