

National 5 Modern Studies (Course Code: C849 75)

SCQF Level 5 (24 Credit Points)

Why study Modern Studies?

Learning Modern Studies gives you a greater understanding of the contemporary world and your place in it.

You will learn contemporary political and social issues in local, Scottish, United Kingdom and international contexts, and, in these contexts, develop an awareness of the social and political issues you will meet in your life. You will also develop investigating, evaluating and analysing skills in order to understand and explain political, social and international issues.

The skills you learn in Modern Studies are valuable in many career areas, including public administration, business management, law, teaching and journalism.

Career Pathways

To see what career areas this subject could lead to and the routes to get there, download and view these career pathways:

[Arts, Social Sciences and Languages](#)

[Communications and Media](#)

[Information, Culture and Heritage](#)

[Law](#)

[Social, Caring and Advisory Services](#)

What do I need to get in?

Entry is at the discretion of the school or college but you would normally have achieved:

- **National 4 Modern Studies**

What will I study?

Modern Studies helps to develop your understanding of how contemporary society is organised. You will study the role and actions of selected organisations and evaluate how effective they are in meeting their aims. You will also learn how human and legal rights and responsibilities are applied in different societies. You will develop a range of research and information handling skills.

The course comprises **three** areas of study.

Democracy in Scotland the United Kingdom

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 and the UK
- develop your knowledge and understanding of the UK political structure, including Scotland's place within this and the debates around this arrangement (choose either the Scottish political system or the UK political system and develop your knowledge and understanding of the main institutions and organisations that make up political life in your chosen context)
- learn more about the ways in which society is informed about the political system, and how people are able to participate in and influence the political system
- increase your understanding of rights and responsibilities in contemporary democratic political society.

Social Issues in the United Kingdom

You will:

- learn how to use sources of information to make decisions and justify them in detail
- increase your knowledge and understanding of social issues in the UK, choosing to focus on either social inequality or crime and the law.

If you choose to focus on social inequality, you will examine a specific aspect of contemporary social inequality in the UK, looking at the causes and consequences of social inequality and attempts by government, organisations and individuals to tackle it

If you focus on crime and the law, you will examine the causes of crime; how crime affects individuals and society; and the role of individuals, the police, the legal system and the state in tackling crime.

International Issues

You will:

- learn how to use sources of information to draw and give detailed support for conclusions
- further develop your knowledge and understanding of international issues, choosing to focus on either a socio-economic and political study of a significant world power or a contemporary world issue.

If you choose to study a world power, you will focus on contemporary socio-economic issues and study its political system.

If you choose to study a world issue, you will focus on a significant contemporary issue, its causes and consequences, and attempts at resolution.

How will I be assessed?

Course Assessment

The course assessment has **two** components **totalling 100 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper – worth 80 marks
- Component 2: assignment – worth 20 marks.

For the assignment component, you will be asked to choose a contemporary issue topic to research and produce evidence to support your findings.

Both the assignment component and question paper will be set and externally marked by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

The grade awarded is based on the total marks achieved across all course assessment components.

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- [SQA Past Papers Modern Studies National 5](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper Modern Studies National 5](#)
- [SQA Understanding Standards Modern Studies](#)
- [BBC Bitesize National 5 Modern Studies](#)

What can I go on to next?

If you complete the course successfully, it may lead to:

- **Higher Modern Studies**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Arts, Social Sciences and Languages
- Communications and Media
- Law
- Public Services Administration
- Social, Caring and Advisory Services
- Teaching and Classroom Support