Higher Modern Studies (Course Code: C849 76)

SCQF Level 6 (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:

Administration and Management

Arts, Social Sciences and Languages

Communications and Media

Information, Culture and Heritage

Law

Social, Caring and Advisory Services

Uniformed and Security Services

What do I need to get in?

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

- **National 5 Modern Studies**

What will I study?

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

Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom

You will study aspects of the democratic political system in the UK including the place of Scotland within this system.

Social Issues in the United Kingdom

You will study either:

- social inequality – focusing on the impact of social inequality on any relevant group, or
- crime and the law – focussing on relevant and contemporary aspects of crime, criminology and the law.

International Issues

You will have a choice of international issue contexts for study. These focus on either the study of a major world power or the study of a significant contemporary world issue:

- option 1: world powers – focusing on political and socio-economic issues, studying a major world power from any members of the G20 group of countries, including the EU but excluding the UK
- option 2: world issues – focusing on any significant recent issue or conflict which extends beyond the boundaries of any single country, and has an impact which may be regional or global.

How will I be assessed?

The course assessment has **three** components **totalling 110 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper 1 – worth 52 marks (consisting of --3ections, two worth 20 marks and one worth 12 marks)
- Component 2: question paper 2 – worth 28 marks
- Component 3: assignment – worth 30 marks.

For the assignment component (which has 2 stages, research and production of evidence), you will choose a topic which allows you to analyse a contemporary issue. You will organise your findings to address this issue and produce evidence to support your findings.

Both question papers are set and externally marked by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

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

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- SQA Past Papers Modern Studies Higher
- SQA Specimen Paper 1 Modern Studies Higher
- SQA Specimen Paper 2 Modern Studies Higher
- SQA Understanding Standards Modern Studies
- BBC Bitesize Modern Studies Higher
- Ushare Study Resources

What can I go on to next?

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

- **Advanced Higher Modern Studies**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Administration and Management
- Arts, Social Sciences and Languages
- Communications and Media
- Information, Culture and Heritage
- Law
- Social, Caring and Advisory Services
- Teaching and Classroom Support
- Uniformed and Security Services