

Modern Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES



Content

The course has three areas of study:

- Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom
- Social issues in the United Kingdom
- International issues.



Skills

Learners will be able to:

- develop a range of research and evaluation skills
- understand the democratic process and complex political issues
- understand complex social and economic issues at local, Scottish, national and international levels
- understand different views about the extent of state involvement in society
- understand the nature and processes of conflict resolution
- understand the importance of human and legal rights and responsibilities and their application in different societies



Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- achieve an understanding of contemporary society and their place in it
- research, understand and use a wide range of evidence on contemporary issues
- evaluate, analyse and synthesise evidence in order to detect and explain the degree of objectivity
- make and justify decisions and draw conclusions with supporting evidence
- construct complex arguments in a balanced and structured way
- communicate, by a variety of means, views, opinions, decisions and conclusions based on evidence



Assessment

- The course will be assessed through two question papers (exams) and an assignment, which will be marked by SQA and graded A to D.
- Question paper 1 makes up 47% of the total assessment mark, paper 2 makes up 26% and the assignment 27%.
- For the assignment, learners can choose any contemporary political, social or international topic or issue to research.



Question Paper 1 Section 1: Democracy in Scotland and the UK
Section 2: Social issues in the UK
Section 3: International issues

1 hour 45 minutes
52 marks

Question Paper 2 Three mandatory questions: analysing, evaluating and synthesising sources.

1 hour 15 minutes
28 marks

Specimen Paper www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm

Assignment

Two stages: research and production of evidence
It is recommended that the research stage takes approximately 8 hours. Production of evidence is in one sitting of 1 hour 30 minutes.

8 hours
+ 1 hour 30 minutes
30 marks



Progression Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Modern Studies: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47924.html

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile

Education Scotland: <https://education.gov.scot/nationalqualifications>

Further Information for Parents and Learners Information on assessment, skills,

progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

www.parentforumscotland.org



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