HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Higher Summary

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:

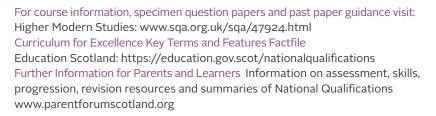
- achieve an understanding of contemporary society and their place in it
- research, understand and use a wide range of evidence on contemporary issues
- evaluate, analyse and synthesise evidence in order to detect and explain the degree of objectivity
- make and justify decisions and draw conclusions 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 hours 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	8 hours
	It is recommended that the research stage takes approximately 8	+ 1 hour 30 minutes
	hours. Production of evidence is in one sitting of 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.



the National Parent Forum of Scotland

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