



Humanities Faculty

Higher Modern Studies



What will I be learning?

The Higher Modern Studies course covers 3 areas of study:

Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom.

You will learn about the democratic political systems in the UK and Scotland. Topics include different electoral systems; factors affecting voting behaviour; the issue of Scottish Independence, and the ways of holding governments to account.

Social issues in the United Kingdom. You will learn about the issue of social inequality in Scotland. Topics include reasons why social inequalities exist; the impact of these inequalities on specific groups, and the effectiveness of government measures to tackle social inequalities.

International Issues. You will learn about political and socio-economic issues in the USA. Topics include the American system of government; the world influence of the USA; the impact of inequality on different groups in the USA, and the effectiveness of government measures to tackle inequality.

How will I be assessed?

Higher Modern Studies consists of an exam and 1 piece of coursework.

Paper 1: In 1 hour 30 minutes, you will write 1 essay from each topic. These will be chosen from a choice of 7 unseen questions (40% of grade).

Paper 2: You will have 1 hour 30 minutes to answer 3 skills questions based on a range of sources. This includes drawing conclusions, analysing the objectivity of a given viewpoint and evaluating the reliability of different sources. (33% of grade).

Higher Assignment: You will work independently to research and write a 30-mark report on a topic of your choosing using a range of self-identified sources. You will have 2 weeks in class and then 2 weeks at home to prepare your report with minimal teacher input. You will then be required to write your report under exam conditions in class time in 1 hour 30 minutes. (27% of grade)

What does homework look like?

You will receive regular homework tasks throughout the course.

This may be to write a paragraph, an essay, or to answer a skills question. You will have at least a week to complete homework tasks.

Periodically, you will have timed essays or skills questions in class. You will be expected to prepare for these at home.

Homework will be given out in class and all resources will be uploaded onto Teams and/or Satchel One for you to access. These will also help you to prepare for prelims in January as well as the final exam in April/May.

See your teacher if you need help accessing Teams or need paper copies.