

Family Learning Higher Modern Studies



Unit Outline

In Higher Modern Studies we study three units:

- **Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom**
- **Social Issues in the United Kingdom - Crime and the Law**
- **International Issues – World Issues – Lack of Development**

In the exam there are two papers

- **Paper 1 – 52 Marks**
- Two extended response questions worth 20 Marks
- and
- One extended response question worth 12 marks.
- **Paper 2 – 28 Marks**
- Information Handling(Skills) questions
- 1 x Conclusions
- 1 x Accuracy
- 1 X Reliability of Sources

Course Assessment Arrangements

- Component 1 — question paper - 80 marks
Component 2 — assignment - 30 marks
- Total marks 110 marks

Key Subject Milestones

	Units of Study	Assessment
June - Mid Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •International Unit x 4 periods (Complete by mid October) •Social issues x 2 periods 	
Late Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Democracy in Scotland and the UK x 4 periods •Social issues x 2 periods 	•International Issues Assessment
Late Nov		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Social Issues Unit assessment •Begin to prepare for the Assignment
Jan 2018		•Prelim exams
Late Jan	Focus on Assignment	
Mid Feb		•Politics Assessment
Late Feb		•Assignment Write-up
Feb- April	Completion of Democracy and Social issues Revision for the examination in May	

Higher Modern Studies Assignment



- Pupils will be expected to :
- Take on the role of a policy adviser and recommend a policy for implementation
- Identify an issue (should be an issue on which there are alternative views)
- Research their chosen topic using various sources
- Analyse information from a range of sources
- Evaluate the usefulness and reliability of sources
- Reach a decision
- Show detailed knowledge and understanding of the issue to support decision
- Show an awareness of alternatives to decision (different views)
- Communicate the information in a report format

Higher Modern Studies Assignment



- Two stages:

1. Research stage - 8 hours

- *Identifying an issue, collecting evidence, analysing, synthesising and evaluating information, reaching a decision.*

2. Production of evidence stage - 1.5 hours (Exam Conditions)

- *During this, pupils will only have access to specified resources (research evidence) which is material collected during the research stage on up to two single-sided sheets of A4*

Higher Modern Studies Assignment

- The production of evidence is undertaken independently although teachers can provide "reasonable assistance", such as:
 1. Showing candidates the instructions for the assignment
 2. Clarifying instructions
 3. Advice on choice of issue - Teachers cannot provide an issue.
 4. Advice on sources to use - Teachers cannot provide sources.
 5. Checking progress regularly through collecting drafts of the assignment.
 6. Teachers cannot mark the assignment or give advice on the number of marks that a pupil will attain based on a draft

The Exam – Answering Exam Questions

- In each section the questions in the exam will be as follows:
- Two extended response questions worth 20 Marks
- and
- One extended response question worth 12 marks.

Extended Responses

20 Marks

- Marks are awarded as follows:
- Up to 8 for Knowledge
- Up to 6 for Analysis
- Up to 2 for Structure
- Up to 4 for Conclusions/Evaluation

12 Marks

- Marks are awarded as follows:
- Up to 8 for Knowledge
- Up to 4 for Analysis

In each type of question pupil should follow the '*PEEREEL*' structure

Assisting with revision

- You can help your child to create a detailed revision plan which will give them control of their work.
- Tips for revision planning:
 - Work out a revision timetable for each subject
 - Break revision time into small chunks - hour-long sessions with short breaks at the end of each session often work well
 - Condense notes onto postcards to act as revision prompts
 - Encourage your child to teach you about a concept or issue. Studies have shown that people retain 90% of the knowledge that they teach.
- Source analysis questions and knowledge questions both require strict time management and pupils should be encouraged to practise under timed conditions.
- The Modern Studies exam is broken up into three sections each worth 20 marks. 45 minutes is allocated to each 20 mark section and pupils should help prepare by practising both 20 mark essays or completing a source analysis and a 12 mark extended response question in that time.
- Useful Modern Studies Websites:
 - SQA CfE Higher Modern Studies site. - This is useful for past papers & marking instructions.
 - SQA Understanding Standards. - This is useful for understanding the standards of assessment as applied by the SQA.
 - BBC Bitesize Higher Modern Studies - This is useful for revision notes, articles & web links to other relevant materials.
 - Using the BBC and other reputable news websites will assist pupils in planning and preparing for the exam and the assignment.

Any Questions?