

# Supporting Higher Modern Studies candidates

## Course structure

Higher Modern Studies is made up of three units:

1. **'Crime and the Law in the UK'**. Candidates learn about the causes and theories of crime in the UK, how society deters crime from taking place, and how we ultimately punish offenders. The impacts of crime on several groups are also considered.
2. **'World Powers: The USA'**. Candidates study the United States of America, focusing on the country's political structures, rights, socio-economic problems, and international influence.
3. **'Democracy in Scotland and the UK'**. Candidates look at the political rights and representation we have in Scotland and the wider UK, considering the potential constitutional future(s) of Scotland therein.

## Course assessment

In session 2020-2021, Higher Modern Studies will be assessed by an SQA exam. This is subject to change, depending on the public health situation. In the exam, candidates will have two papers. Question Paper 1 will assess candidates' knowledge of the topics, as well as their skills of analysis and evaluation. Lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes, Paper 1 will see candidates write three essays (one for each unit) – one will be a 12-marker and the others will be 20-marks. Question Paper 2, by contrast, will provide candidates with three source-based questions, which will test candidates' abilities to analyse sources and make conclusions, support and oppose a viewpoint, and comment on the reliability of sources.

## Key hints and tips

In Higher Modern Studies, essay paragraphs should be a standard format – Point, Explain, Example, Analysis, Counterpoint, and Conclusion. When it comes to Analysis, candidates should preference remarks with phrases such as, 'As a consequence', 'As a result', 'This illustrates', 'This shows', etc. The Counterpoint section should be prefixed with "However". In drawing Conclusions, candidates should seek command phrases and words like, "Overall", "In summary", "In conclusion", etc.

When it comes to Question Paper 2 of the exam, candidates merely need to revise the answer templates. Therefore, reviewing these templates will help them to maximise their score out of 28 from Paper 2 of the exam.

If candidates are practicing essay technique, they should be encouraged to follow the time limits of the real SQA exam. For a 20-mark essay, candidates would have 40/45 minutes for each 20-mark essay, with 20/25 minutes for their 12-mark essay.

## Useful revision resources

### Google Classroom

Google Classroom has been used extensively since the start of the school session. Therefore, the 'Classwork' tab is full of course notes and materials, as well as feedback on previous work. Candidates can use this feedback to help them improve. At the top of the tab, there's an assignment labelled as "OPTIONAL" – this is where candidates can upload additional revision work for marking and feedback.

### Past papers

The SQA [website](#) features past papers for all subjects, going back up to 5 years in some subjects. These past papers come with full marking instructions. This can be used to help candidates further practice essay technique and enquiry skill questions.

### SQA Understanding Standards

Another helpful website from the SQA is 'Understanding Standards'. On here, candidates will find real exemplar work, marked by the SQA. It is freely available via this [link](#) for all National Qualification subjects.

### BrightRED

BrightRED are a publishing company. In addition to their helpful 'Study Guide' (you can find more [here](#)), they also have a free [Digital Zone](#), which candidates can register for free to access revision materials.

### Other textbooks

In class, we use the Hodder Gibson published textbooks for the three units mentioned in the "Course structure" section. These books, as well as their further resources can be found [here](#). Leckie also have a range of helpful books too, and you can learn more [here](#).