

# Supporting N4/5 Modern Studies candidates

## Course structure

National 4/5 Modern Studies is essentially a mixture of Economics, Politics, and Sociology. The subject exposes candidates to the salient socio-economic issues of our country, and the wider world. Through the course, candidates develop their skills of analysis, comparison, debate, evaluation, literacy, and numeracy. The structure of the course is the same for National 4/5 candidates, and follows 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 options for alternative punishments are discussed and evaluated in comparison to prison, while the impacts of crime on several groups is 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'**. Candidates look at the political rights and representation we have in Scotland, considering the roles of MSPs, the work of the Scottish Parliament more generally, and analysing the potential constitutional future(s) of Scotland.

## Course assessment

National 4 Modern Studies is assessed by the Class Teacher. To achieve National 4, candidates must have passed an assessment for each of the three units, as well as passing an Added Value Unit (AVU), where candidates research a Modern Studies related topic and present their findings in an appropriate manner. All assessment requirements of National 4 are marked 'Pass/Fail', and candidates can reattempt work they've failed. Candidates do not achieve a band (A-D, 'No Award') with National 4, but will have "National 4 Modern Studies" on their SQA certificates, assuming all assessments are passed. **As of January 2021, candidates still must pass these requirements to achieve National 4.**

National 5 Modern Studies is assessed by the SQA. The course is made up of 100 marks, which is assessed through two methods. First, candidates choose a

Modern Studies related topic, research it, and write up their findings, conclusions, and methodology under exam conditions – this is called the 'Assignment'. Later in the year, candidates complete a 2-hour 20-minute Question Paper, assessing their understanding of the three course units. Both assessment components are marked by the SQA, with candidates being given a band (A-D, 'No Award'), depending on how well they do. **As of January 2021, National 5 Modern Studies awards will be founded on evidence-based Teacher estimates.**

## 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 knowledge-based 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](#).