**MODERN STUDIES HIGHER**

**CONTENT**

**Political Issues in the UK**

Democracy in the UK

* Implications of the UK’s decision to leave the European Union
* The role of Parliament and elected representatives
* A comparison of voting systems currently used in UK elections and their effects;
* Outside influences on decision-making (pressure groups, the traditional media, social media);
* Different influences on voting behaviour in the UK.

**Social Issues in the UK**

Social Inequality

* Welfare state debate: the state or the individual?
* Wealth – social class in the UK, inequalities in wealth, gender inequalities, race inequalities, government policies to deal with wealth inequalities.
* Health – seventy years of the NHS, inequalities in health, government policies to deal with health inequalities, private health care, an assessment of the current state of the NHS.

**International Issues**

The USA

* The US political system;
* Political issues and political parties;
* Social and economic inequalities facing groups in the USA.
* Government responses to social and economic inequalities.
* The international influence of the USA on other countries.

**EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT**

This takes the form of an examination consisting of two papers. Paper 1 is knowledge based essay questions lasting for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Paper 2 is skills based questions and lasts for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

There will also be an externally assessed assignment. This extended response report is worth 27% of the overall mark in which learners will write a report on their own research into a current political, social or economic issue.

**HOMEWORK**

This is issued on a regular basis and consists of either practise essay questions, preparation for class discussions and debates or shorter written activities.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

National 5 Modern Studies or a National 5 pass in any other Humanities subject or English.