



# WELCOME TO HIGHER MODERN STUDIES



## Can I do well in Modern Studies if I have never taken it before?

Not having any previous experience of Modern Studies should not hold you back in S6. This course, like any other Higher, is demanding. **Keeping up to date with news coverage will help you massively.** For those who have completed the N5 course, you will notice some skills you developed last year will be useful for Higher.

## What will my exam be like?

<b>Paper 1 – The Essays</b> <b>52 marks – 1 hour and 45 mins</b>	<b>Paper 2 – The Source Questions</b> <b>28 marks – 1 hour and 15 mins</b>
2 x 20 mark essays 1 x 12 mark  [you must complete one essay on each topic of the course]  Your mark is based on your knowledge and essay writing technique!	2 x 10 mark source question responses 1 x 8 mark source question response  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reliability question (8 marks)</li><li>• Objectivity question (10 marks)</li><li>• Conclusion question (10 marks)</li></ul> Your mark is based on your ability to use the <b>source information only</b> to structure a line of argument in response.

## Do I have to write an Assignment?

Yes, you will write an Assignment about a relevant Modern Studies issue. You will have 1 hour 30 mins to complete this task in class. You will prepare and learn your Assignment **before** the write-up. More on this later...

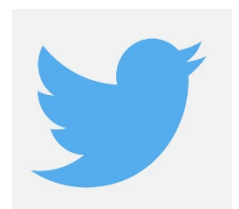
## Where can I get help?

### Ask!

Attend **supported study** (when we are back to school)

For recent examples check **Twitter**: @Firrhill\_Modern

Google 'Miss Davidson Modern Studies' to find my **wordpress website**, the password is: **firrhill**





# TOPIC 1: SOCIAL INEQUALITY



<p><b>Wealth Problems</b></p> <p>Explain the causes of wealth problems and the impact this can have on various groups in society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Unemployment</li> <li>• Low income / the working poor</li> <li>• Location / Housing</li> <li>• Social class</li> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Discrimination</li> <li>• Gender</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul> <p><i>Tip: If asked about 'one group' choose 'women', this is the group we will cover in most detail.</i></p>	<p><b>Example Essay Q:</b></p> <p><b>Specimen Paper 2018</b> – There are many causes of income and wealth inequality. Discuss. <b>(20)</b></p> <p><b>2015</b> – Evaluate the view that social inequality affects some groups in society more than other. <b>(12)</b></p>
<p><b>Government Responses to Wealth Problems</b></p> <p>Consider the successes and failures of Government attempts to reduce wealth inequality:</p> <p><b>Poverty</b> – Universal Credit, National Minimum Wage/Living Wage, Job Seekers Allowance, Job Centre Plus</p> <p><b>Age</b> – <i>Elderly</i> - State Pension, Winter Fuel Allowance, Free Bus Pass (60+). <i>Children</i> - Baby Box Scheme and Free School Meals</p> <p><b>Gender</b> – Equality Act 2010, 50 50 Campaign and Increased Nursery Hours</p> <p><b>Education</b> – EMA, free University tuition and Pupil Equity Fund (all in Scotland)</p> <p><b>Race</b> – Equality Act 2010, Positive Action Schemes</p> <p><b>The impact of austerity measures</b> – Universal Credit, Bedroom Tax, Benefits Cap</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Q:</b></p> <p><b>2017</b> – To what extent have government policies been effective in reducing social and economic inequalities? <b>(20)</b></p>
<p><b>Health Problems</b></p> <p>Poverty Housing issues Lifestyle choices (smoking, alcohol, drug use, obesity) Gender</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Q:</b></p> <p><b>2016</b> – To what extent can ill-health be blamed on the lifestyle choices of the population? <b>(20)</b></p> <p><b>2017</b> – Poverty is the main cause of poor health. Discuss. <b>(20)</b></p>
<p><b>Government Responses to Health Problems</b></p> <p>NHS, Minimum Unit Pricing, banning BOGOF deals, free prescriptions, smoking bans in public places and cars and, 5, 7 or 10 a day diet Government (NHS) vs. Private (BUPA, Spire Hospitals) Responses</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Q:</b></p> <p><b>2015</b> – Evaluate the effectiveness of either the benefits system <b>or health services</b> in tackling social inequality. <b>(12)</b></p>



# TOPIC 2: DEMOCRACY UK/SCOTLAND



<p><b>Possible alternatives for the governance of Scotland</b></p> <p>Argue the strengths and weaknesses of Scotland becoming an independent country</p> <p>Factors:</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2019</b> – ‘There are many different views about the most effective way to govern Scotland.’ Discuss <b>(20)</b></p>
<p><b>Implications of the UK’s decision to leave the EU</b></p> <p>Argue the positive and negative impacts of Brexit</p> <p>Factors: Northern Ireland, immigration,</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2018</b> – Analyse the potential impact of leaving the European Union. <b>(12)</b></p>
<p><b>Voting systems</b></p> <p>Compare the strengths and weaknesses of the following voting systems:</p> <p><b>First Past the Post (FPTP)</b> – used for UK General elections  <b>Additional Members System (AMS)</b> – used for Scottish Parliamentary elections  <b>Single Transferable Vote (STV)</b> – used for local council elections</p> <p><i>Tip: compare one other voting system of your choice to FPTP</i></p> <p>Factors:</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2017</b> - Evaluate the effectiveness of one voting system you have studied in providing fair representation. <b>(12)</b></p>
<p><b>Voting influence</b></p> <p>Argue the extent to which the following factors influence a person’s vote:</p> <p><b>Mandatory factors:</b> social class, age and media</p> <p><b>Other factors we will consider:</b> party leader’s image, current issues (such as Brexit and health)</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2015</b> - To what extent are some factors more important than others in influencing voting behaviour? <b>(20)</b></p> <p><b>2018</b> – Analyse the influence of the media on voting behaviour. <b>(12)</b></p>
<p><b>Accountability in Parliament</b></p> <p>Consider whether or not MPs/MSPs can influence the decisions made by the Prime Minister/First Minister and their Government</p> <p><b>Factors:</b> Prime/First Ministers Question Time, Private Members Bills, voting on laws and debates</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2019</b> – ‘Parliament has had little success in holding the government to account.’ Discuss. <b>(20)</b></p>
<p><b>Ways citizens can influence government decision-making</b></p> <p>Consider how successful each attempt to influence government decision making is</p> <p><b>Mandatory factors:</b> pressure groups and the methods they use</p> <p><b>Other factors we will consider:</b> voting, joining a political party and petitions</p>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2015</b> – ‘Most citizens participate effectively in the political process.’ Discuss <b>(20)</b></p> <p><b>2019</b> – ‘Some pressure groups, and the methods they use are more successful than others.’ Discuss. <b>(20)</b></p>



# TOPIC 3 : TERRORISM



The question will always state that you must answer, 'with reference to a world issue you have studied'.

<p><b>Causes of Terrorism</b></p> <p>Consider the following causes of terrorism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social factors</li> <li>• Economic factors</li> <li>• Political factors</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2015</b> - Analyse the different factors which have caused this issue. <b>(12)</b></p> <p><b>2018</b> - To what extent are some factors which cause this issue more important than others? <b>(20)</b></p>
<p><b>Effects of Terrorism</b></p> <p>Consider the various impacts of terrorism on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals</li> <li>• Families</li> <li>• Communities</li> <li>• Governments involved</li> <li>• Wider international community</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2016</b> - Evaluate the impact of this issue on the individuals and groups affected. <b>(12)</b></p> <p><b>2017</b> - Analyse the effects of the world issue on countries and their governments. <b>(12)</b></p>
<p><b>Responses to Terrorism</b></p> <p>Consider the successes and failures of various responses to terrorism by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual countries</li> <li>• International organisations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example Essay Question:</b></p> <p><b>2015</b> - Analyse the role of international organisations in attempting to resolve this issue. <b>(12)</b></p> <p><b>2019</b> - To what extent has the response by individual countries to this issue been effective? <b>(20)</b></p>

The topics above will be used in **Paper 1** (the essay paper) only.

**Paper 2** is a source question paper. Your answers must be based on the information in the sources only!