

# HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Modern Studies

MODERN  
STUDIES  
SOCIAL STUDIES

CfE  
HIGHER

3  
UNITS

DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM  
SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM  
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER



## Skills

Learners will be able to:

- develop a range of research and evaluation skills
- understand the democratic process and complex political issues
- understand complex social and economic issues at local, Scottish, national and international levels
- understand different views about the extent of state involvement in society
- understand the nature and processes of conflict resolution
- understand the importance of human and legal rights and responsibilities and their application in different societies



## Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- achieve an understanding of contemporary society and their place in it
- research, understand and use a wide range of evidence on contemporary issues
- evaluate, analyse and synthesise evidence in order to detect and explain the degree of objectivity
- make and justify decisions and draw conclusions with supporting evidence
- construct complex arguments in a balanced and structured way
- communicate, by a variety of means, views, opinions, decisions and conclusions based on evidence



## Assessment

- To gain Higher Modern Studies, learners must pass the three Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper for 90 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (30 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 60 marks) which is in three sections (see below). These are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Modern Studies is graded from A to D or as No Award.



**Question Paper** The Question Paper has three sections, one on each Unit. There will be a choice of essay questions and optional topics.

2 hours 15 minutes  
60 marks, 20 per section

**Specimen Paper** [www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/ModernStudiesSQPH.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ModernStudiesSQPH.pdf)

**Assignment** Learners will research a contemporary issue and write it up under timed conditions.

30 marks



**Progression** Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:  
Higher Modern Studies: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47924.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47924.html)  
Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile  
[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)  
Further Information for Parents and Learners Information on assessment, skills, progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications  
[www.parentforumscotland.org](http://www.parentforumscotland.org)



the National Parent  
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