

# NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Modern Studies National 5

MODERN  
STUDIES  
SOCIAL STUDIES

NATIONAL  
5

3  
UNITS

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

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

COURSE ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER

## What skills will my child develop?

- detailed knowledge and understanding of the main democratic processes, institutions and organisations in Scotland and/or the UK
- detailed knowledge and understanding of social and economic issues at local, Scottish, national and international levels and ways of addressing needs and inequalities
- awareness of different views about the extent of state involvement in society
- the ability to detect and explain bias and exaggeration
- an awareness of the nature and processes of conflict resolution
- straightforward understanding of human and legal rights and responsibilities and their application in different societies
- a range of research and information handling skills
- the ability to draw valid conclusions from evidence
- critical thinking skills such as explaining, analysing, evaluating



## WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, learning logs
- A blend of classroom approaches including visits and real life contexts; teamwork approaches; whole class learning; staff-led questioning; discussion and debate
- Collaborative learning: in groups and with others locally, nationally and internationally; inter-curricular projects with English, maths and other social studies
- Space for personalisation and choice: learners may select topics within units, choose their Assignment topic and their methods of researching and presenting evidence
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information including statistics; evaluating; communicating.

## ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') might include more in-depth digital or oral presentations, recorded DVD/video, written work, podcasts, wall displays, extended writing. A portfolio of work may be prepared
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment and a Question Paper. Learners will research a topical issue and write up their findings (in timed conditions of one hour). The Course Assessment will be marked by the SQA and graded A to D.

National 5 progresses onto Higher Modern Studies

For more detailed course information:

SQA: Modern Studies National 5: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45702.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45702.html)

Education Scotland: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp)

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)



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