

## Proposed Descriptors for Intermediate and Higher Modern Studies

### Unit 1: Democracy in the United Kingdom

Intermediate Course		Higher Course			
<b>Study Theme 1A: Government and Decision-making in Scotland</b>	1)	Decision-making for Scotland: the Scottish Parliament; the Executive; the powers, structure and functions of the Scottish Parliament, including the work of the Committees; the functions of local councils and councillors.	<b>Study Theme 1A: The Government of Scotland</b>	1)	Decision-making for Scotland: the Scottish Parliament as an arena for conflict, cooperation and decision-making; functions, organisation of and procedures for business. The structure and functions of local government. Representation of Scottish interests at Westminster.
	2)	Influences on the decision-making process in Scotland: the influence of the media and pressure groups on decision-making. Case Study: pressure groups in action.		2)	The Scottish Executive; the respective roles of the First Minister and his Cabinet. The distribution of powers between the Scottish Parliament and the UK Parliament; co-operation and conflict between the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive and the UK parliament.
				3)	Local government in Scotland: role, structure, functions, organisation and finance. Co-operation and conflict with Scottish Parliament.
<b>Study Theme 1B: Electoral Systems</b>	1)	The Scottish electoral systems with reference to the voting systems used: their advantages and disadvantages for political parties and voters — effects on the distribution of power within parties and in Parliament.	<b>Study Theme 1B: The Electoral System, Voting and Political Attitudes</b>	1)	The UK and Scottish electoral systems and alternative voting systems: arguments for and against; effects upon the distribution of power — within parties, in parliaments and between the electorate and the elected.
	2)	Patterns of voting behaviour — regional variations. Reasons for variations in voter turnout at local and national elections. Influence of the media on voting behaviour. Case Study: the influence of the press on politics.		2)	Voting patterns; explanations of voting behaviour (social differentiation, party affiliation, age, gender, ethnic background, issues; national and regional variations); voter turnout at elections — explanations, concerns and consequential recommendations.
				3)	The shaping of political attitudes through the media. Political opinion polls — use and effect.

Intermediate Course	Higher Course	
	<b>Study Theme 1C: Political Parties and their Policies (including the Scottish Dimension)</b>	1) Political parties — ideology, membership, organisation and finance; influences on decisions within parties and on the formulating of party policies — the role of party leaders, MPs, party members, the media and voters.
		2) Conflict and consensus within and between parties; ideological differences within and between parties; reasons for changes in party ideologies and/or policies.
		3) Party policies on taxation, law and order, employment, health, education and Europe — trends and differences.
	<b>Study Theme 1D: Decision-making in Central Government</b>	1) Parliament (Commons and Lords) as an arena for conflict, cooperation and decision-making (including lobbying, whip system, debates, inter-party pressure groups e.g. 1922 Committee); functions; organisation of and procedures for business.
		2) The Executive; the respective roles of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; relationships between Parliament and the Executive; the role of the Civil Service and its relationship to government.
		3) Influences upon the decision-making process in the UK (pressures from groups, the media, public opinion); the extent of these pressures, their impact and legitimacy.

## Unit 2: Social Issues in the United Kingdom

Intermediate Course			Higher Course		
<b>Study Theme 2A: Equality in Society: Wealth and Health</b>	1)	Poverty — causes and consequences; the role in tackling poverty of: central government; the Scottish Parliament; local authorities; the voluntary sector and the private sector.	<b>Study Theme 2A: Wealth and Health</b>	1)	Class structures and definitions; causes and consequences of unemployment and poverty for both the individual and the state.
	2)	Causes of ill health; health needs in the UK; how these health needs are met by: central government; the Scottish Parliament; local authorities; the voluntary sector and the private sector.		2)	The influence on health of different factors — age, ethnicity, gender, lifestyle and income of wealth. Principles of the NHS and its success in maintaining these. The role of the private sector in health care.
		3)		Government policies to deal with inequalities in wealth and health: funding and provision of health care at primary and secondary levels; preventative measures and positive health care; social inclusion — education, welfare to work and taxation policies.	

Intermediate Course		Higher Course			
<b>Study Theme 2B: Crime and the Law in Society</b>	1)	Types of crime; causes of crime and examples of types of crime; the law in Scotland regarding alcohol, drugs and road traffic legislation.	<b>Study Theme 2B: Crime and the Law in Society</b>	1)	Sociological explanations of crime: social class, location, poverty, unemployment, gender and peer pressure. Rights and responsibilities; equality before the law (including aspects of gender and race).
	2)	Role of the police; branches of the police; different approaches to policing, including beat/community policing; the court system in Scotland; sentencing policy; the Scottish juvenile justice system including Children's Hearings.		2)	Patterns of crime; types of offences, geographical and social incidence; the extent to which crime is reported; the differing impact of crime on individuals and groups in society.
		3)		Government responses to crime: policies to deal with the causes of crime; measures to make policing more effective. Penal policy: sentencing alternatives to prison: the Children's Hearing System. The role of the private sector in the criminal justice system.	

### Unit 3: International Issues

Intermediate Course			Higher Course		
<b>Study Theme 3A: South Africa</b>	1)	Social and economic issues: main regional and cultural differences; inequalities in lifestyle including health, land and housing, education and law and order issues; federal government responses to these inequalities.	<b>Study Theme 3A: South Africa</b>	1)	The federal political system: the role and powers of the president and cabinet, the national assembly and provincial assemblies. Local government.
	2)	Political issues: main regional and cultural differences; participation and representation within the political system; the influence of different political groups on the political process.		2)	Political issues: participation and representation in the political system; the influence of different groups on the political process; the demand for political change by different groups.
				3)	Social and economic issues: the nature and extent of social and economic progress (with reference to employment, income, health, land and housing, education and law and order); regional variations; the effectiveness of federal, provincial and local government responses; the consequences for different groups.
<b>Study Theme 3B: China</b>	1)	Social and economic issues: main regional and cultural differences; human rights; inequalities in lifestyles in terms of wealth, housing, education; rural and urban contrasts. Government responses to these issues.	<b>Study Theme 3B: China</b>	1)	The Chinese political system: the role and powers of the different levels of Chinese government at national, regional and local levels; the role of the Communist Party at each level.
	2)	Political issues: main regional and cultural differences; participation and representation within the political system; the influence of different political groups on the political process.		2)	Political issues: the extent of changes in political ideology; demand for change within the political system; (the extent of democratisation); human rights issues and government responses.

Intermediate Course		Higher Course	
		<b>Study Theme 3B: China Cont'd</b>	3) Social and economic issues: the extent of social and economic change (with reference to employment, income, health, land and housing, education and law and order) and the effects on different groups (ie party officials, the military, urban and rural workers, peasants and women); regional variations.
<b>Study Theme 3C: USA</b>	1)	<b>Study Theme 3C: USA</b>	1) The federal political system: the role and powers of the President; Congress; state and local governments.
	2)		2) Political issues: the participation and representation in the political systems of the white and minority ethnic groups; the effectiveness of equal rights legislation and affirmative action programmes; the debate over immigration.
			3) Social and economic issues; the nature and extent of social and economic inequalities and progress (with reference to employment, income, health, housing, education and justice); the debate over equal rights legislation and affirmative action programmes.
	1) Social and economic issues: main regional and cultural differences; inequalities in terms of employment, income, health, housing, education and law and order amongst ethnic minorities. Equal rights legislation and affirmative action policies.		
	2) Political issues: main regional and cultural differences; inequalities of representation and participation in the political process by ethnic minorities.		

Intermediate Course			Higher Course		
<b>Study Theme 3D: European Union</b>	1)	Comparative lifestyles between a community in the UK and a community in the European Union: living standards; education; housing; family life and leisure.	<b>Study Theme 3D: European Union</b>	1)	Aims and membership of the European Union; European integration; implications of enlarged membership, the single market and full implementation of the single European currency (Euro). Demands for change (including a world security role).
	2)	Social and economic issues in Europe: European integration, European currency (Euro), regional development, Social Chapter and fishing/farming issues.		2)	Resolution of conflict: collective interests of the EU member states, conflict between collective interests and individual state interests with specific reference to CAP and CFP; community institutions as a means of resolving conflicts.
				3)	Regional and Social Policy; main features of these policies, extent of membership agreement on these policies and demand for change.
			<b>Study Theme 3E: Global Security</b>	1)	The organisation and work of the UN and NATO: membership, goals, institutions, policies and decision-making procedures.
				2)	Origin and consequences of recent conflicts, including international terrorism, which demanded an international response.
				3)	International responses, including those of the UN, NATO and the EU to recent conflicts in or between countries: factors which influence these responses; the nature of operations; difficulties and successes/failures, issues of peacekeeping and peacemaking.

Intermediate Course	Higher Course		
	<b>Study Theme 3F: The Politics of Development in Africa</b>	1)	Factors affecting the production and distribution of food - climate; war, debt, exchange rates, cash crops, land tenure and terms of trade
2)		Causes of ill health and the provision of health care; access to primary, secondary and tertiary education for males and females. Causes and consequences of rural and urban population growth.	
3)		Responses to food shortages — the role of the UN, NGOs the EU, the UK Government and African governments.	