



Modern Studies Assignment (National 4)

SCQF: level 4 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H23R 74

Unit outline

This is the Added Value Unit in the National 4 Modern Studies Course. The general aim of this Unit is to enable the learner to provide evidence of added value for the National 4 Modern Studies Course through the successful completion of a Modern Studies Assignment which will allow the learner to demonstrate challenge and application.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Research and use information relating to a Modern Studies topic or issue

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the National 4 Modern Studies Course and is also available as a free-standing Unit. The Unit Specification should be read in conjunction with the *Course Support Notes* which provide advice and guidance on delivery and assessment approaches. Exemplification of the assessment in this Unit is given in *Unit Assessment Support*.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of centre. It is recommended that the learner should be in the process of completing, or have completed, the following Units in the National 4 Modern Studies Course:

- ◆ Modern Studies: Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom (National 4)
- ◆ Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom (National 4)
- ◆ Modern Studies: International Issues (National 4)

Equality and inclusion

This Unit Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Standards

Outcomes and Assessment Standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

- 1 Research and use information relating to a Modern Studies topic or issue by:**
 - 1.1 Choosing, with support, an appropriate Modern Studies topic or issue for study
 - 1.2 Collecting relevant evidence from at least two sources of different types
 - 1.3 Organising and using the information collected to address the topic or issue
 - 1.4 Drawing on a factual knowledge and understanding to describe and briefly explain some key features of the topic or issue
 - 1.5 Apply the skills of either detecting bias and exaggeration or making decisions or drawing conclusions
 - 1.6 Presenting their findings about the topic or issue

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

This Unit will be assessed through controlled assessment which meets the Evidence Requirements below.

The assessment method for this Unit will be an assignment in which the learner will extend and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding they have acquired during the Course. Learners will research and present findings on a modern studies topic or issue. The assignment will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

The Modern Studies assignment is:

- ◆ set by centres within the SQA guidelines described below
- ◆ conducted under some supervision and control

Evidence will be internally marked by centre staff in line with SQA guidelines.

All assessment is subject to quality assurance by SQA.

Setting the assessment

The Modern Studies assignment will be set by centres.

All learners should be provided with a clear outline of the Outcome and Assessment Standards, including when and how they will be assessed.

Learners have flexibility in the form/method of presentation of assessment evidence.

Conducting the assessment

The Modern Studies assignment will be conducted under some supervision and control. While most work will be undertaken under supervision, opportunities may also be provided for learners to undertake independent learning.

The teacher/lecturer should support the learner by offering advice on an appropriate topic or issue. The learner will contribute to this by offering some ideas and/or suggestions. It would be reasonable for the topic or issue to be one where the teacher/lecturer has some expertise and has resources available to enable the learner to successfully meet the Assessment Standards. Teachers/lecturers can continue to offer advice and support to learners as they undertake the assignment. This may include providing questions/tasks/prompts which lead learners through the assignment in clear stages.

The assignment need not be seen as an end-of-Course activity. It can be prepared for, carried out and assessed at any point within the National 4 Modern Studies Course. The Modern Studies assignment is intended to provide challenge and opportunities to apply skills, knowledge and understanding. It also provides opportunities to generate the evidence required to meet the Assessment Standards. Centres have flexibility in how they use this time to best meet the needs of their learners. This time can also be used for activities which will enrich the learner's experience, consolidate learning, allow achievement beyond the minimum requirements, and plan for next steps.

Teacher/lecturer guidance will be required to direct candidates to appropriate source materials. These can be primary and/or secondary. At least two different sources of information must be used. A list of possible types of sources of information can be found in the *Course Support Notes*. Learners can have access to all appropriate resources while undertaking the assignment.

Centres must ensure that appropriate measures are in place to authenticate learners' evidence.

Judging the evidence

Evidence will be internally marked and verified by centre staff in line with SQA guidelines.

All assessment is subject to quality assurance by SQA.

Learners can present their findings in a variety of ways, eg a talk followed by questions, using digital media, a learning log or journal, a poster or a piece of writing.

However findings are presented, teachers/lecturers should ensure credit is given only to the skills, knowledge and understanding required within the Assessment Standards rather than other factors such as IT or communication skills.

Assessment evidence can be gathered in a holistic manner.

Evidence must be retained by centres for verification purposes.

Re-assessment

In relation to Unit assessment, SQA's guidance on re-assessment for Units applies.

Further information is provided in the exemplification of assessment in *Unit Assessment Support*. Advice and guidance on possible approaches to assessment is provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

Please refer to the *Course Specification* for information about skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

Further mandatory information on Course coverage for the National 4 Modern Studies Course

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the National 4 Modern Studies Course. Assessment of this Added Value Unit will involve selecting appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding from those listed below, in line with the Evidence Requirements above. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding also provides the basis for the assessment of all the Units in the Course:

- ◆ developing and applying straightforward skills, knowledge and understanding in political, social or international contexts
- ◆ with support, researching and using information collected from a limited range of sources about contemporary issues which are familiar
- ◆ using a limited range of sources of information to detect and explain bias and exaggeration in familiar political contexts
- ◆ giving straightforward justifications for decisions made in familiar social contexts using a limited range of sources of information
- ◆ giving straightforward support for valid conclusions drawn from a limited range of sources of information about familiar international issues
- ◆ demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the main democratic processes, institutions and organisations which make up political life in Scotland and/or the UK by giving factual descriptions and straightforward explanations
- ◆ demonstrating knowledge and understanding of a major social issue in Scotland and the UK focusing on either social inequality or crime and the law by giving factual descriptions and straightforward explanations
- ◆ demonstrating knowledge and understanding of an international issue relating to a either a significant world power or contemporary world issue by giving factual descriptions and straightforward explanations

Administrative information

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Superclass: FB

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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