

# Welcome to Modern Studies “Linlithgow Learns.”



# Aims of the Session

- To give you a better understanding of how you can support your young person to prepare for their assignment write up.



Aims:



# Components of the Modern Studies Courses

## National 5

- 1. Exam (1 paper) worth 80 marks**
- 2. Assignment worth 20 marks.**

## Higher

**The exam is made up of 2 papers:**

**Paper 1: 3 essays (52 marks)**

**Paper 2: 3 source questions (28 marks)**

**The assignment is worth 30 marks.**

# Final Write Up Dates

## **National 5 (7/11/24)**

- Students will have 1 hour to complete their write up.
- This will be done in class time during the double period under formal SQA exam conditions.
- AAA arrangements will be in place for students who usually receive these.

## **Higher 12/11/24 or 13/11/24**

- Students will have 1 hour 30 mins to complete their write up.
- This will be done in class time during the double period under formal SQA exam conditions.
- AAA arrangements will be in place for students who usually receive these.

# CURRENT PROGRESS



- Students in all of the Modern Studies classes should now have submitted a draft for a progress check
- **Higher Classes:** Due yesterday
- **N5 Classes:** Due before the holidays

# Teacher Input



- The SQA has very strict guidance on how much input and direction the candidates can be given. Therefore teachers are not allowed to mark drafts.
- Teachers are permitted to look at drafts and provide “progress checks.”



# National 5 Candidates (Suggested Structure)

- **Title:**
- **Hypothesis:** (statement that you will prove/disprove through the course of your research).
- **Aims:**
  - 1. Arguments for
  - 2. Arguments against
  - 3. Public opinion

- **Findings:** What did your research tell you about the issue? What evidence do you have to support this?

**Conclusion:** In conclusion it can be argued that.....because.....  
....

# Higher Candidates (Suggested Structure)

- **To:** Neil Gray
- **From:** Heather Livingston (Advisor to the Government)
- **Subject:** Tackling Childhood Obesity Epidemic in Scotland

## **Introduction/Framing the Issue (10 marks)**

**Option 1:** Compulsory daily PE in schools

**Option 2:** Ban on the sale of fizzy drinks to under 16s

**Option 3:** Early interventions programmes

**Recommendation:** After careful consideration I recommend that the Scottish Government funds early intervention programmes in school to tackle the obesity crisis in Scotland.

- **Arguments to Support Option 1:**

- **Arguments to oppose option 1:**

- **Arguments to Support Option 2:**

- **Arguments to oppose option 2:**

- **Arguments to Support Option 3:**

- **Arguments to oppose option 3:**

- **Conclusion:**

- **Research Methods:**



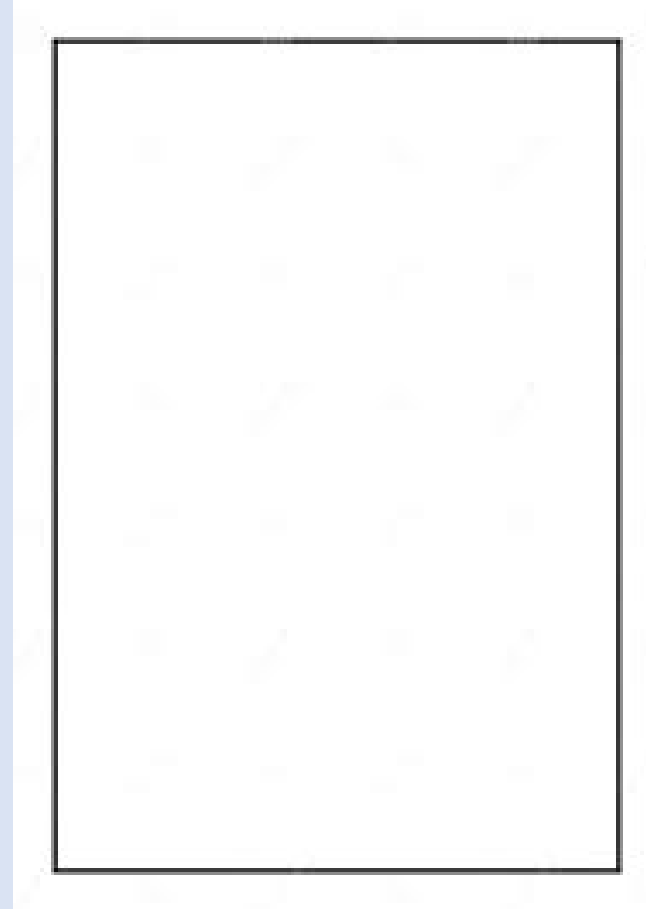
# Research Sheets

- The purpose of the research sheet is to help candidates use their evidence and references, collected during the research stage, to address their chosen topic or issue. The research sheet should not take the form of a 'plan' as this is likely to encourage direct copying, which gains no marks.
- Candidates should use the research sheet (two single-sided sheets of A4) to provide evidence that they have carried out their own research.
- Candidates must not use it as a plan. Direct copying from research sheets attracts no credit and, where research evidence is not identified, full marks cannot be achieved.
- Any 'coded' research evidence will also be treated as direct copying.
- **If a candidate does not submit a research sheet, a penalty of 6 marks out of the total of 30 marks is applied (Higher).**
- **If an N5 candidate does not submit their research a penalty of 4 marks is applied.**



# Research Sheets (Applicable to both Higher and N5 Students)

- The Modern Studies research sheet should show evidence of primary or secondary research carried out by the candidate. It may include, for example:
  - **statistical, graphical or numerical data**
  - **survey results interview questions and/or answers**
  - **questionnaires and/or results**
  - **newspaper articles or extracts**
  - **notes taken from a visit, talk, or a written or audio-visual source**



# Research Methods

- Students in both Higher and N5 are expected to evaluate their research methods and the sources of information that they have used.
- **N5:** This forms a significant part of the N5 write up. This section is worth 10 marks. Students have been advised to consider:
  1. the strengths of their research method
  2. weaknesses of their research methods
  3. If you were to conduct this research again, what would you do differently.
- **Higher:** This is worth 2 /30 marks in Higher therefore a huge amount of detail is not needed. Students have been advised to compare their more reliable source to their least reliable source



# Marking of the Higher Assignment

- Identifying and demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the issue about which a decision has to be made, including alternative courses of action **(10 marks for KU)**
- Analysing and synthesising information from a range of sources including use of specified resources **(10 analysis marks)**
- Evaluating the usefulness and reliability of a range of sources of information **(2 marks)**
- Communicating information using the conventions of a report **(4 marks)**
- Reaching a decision, supported by evidence, about the issue **(4 marks)**

# Marking of the N5 Assignment (20 marks available)

**Evaluating the effectiveness of two research methods** used, commenting on their strengths and weaknesses where appropriate. Candidate should avoid simply giving generic descriptions of research methods, rather than making specific reference to their actual methods used, shown on their research sheet. **(10 marks)**

**Presenting their Findings**-Drawing on knowledge and understanding to explain and analyse key features of the topic or issue. Candidates must make at least one direct reference to the research evidence brought into the assessment. **(6 marks)**

**Reaching a well-supported conclusion**, supported by evidence, about the topic or issue. Candidates may gain credit in a number of ways up to a maximum of 4 marks. Candidates should demonstrate modern studies skills of making decisions, recommendations, or reaching conclusions based upon evidence they have provided. Do not award marks for repetition of findings. **(4 marks)**

# Questions

