

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Modern Studies

Power and Influence on
Decision Making

[INTERMEDIATE 1,
INTERMEDIATE 2]

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Student notes

This study theme is about political issues and how political decisions are made. It is divided into two main areas:

Section 1: Power in Decision Making, and
Section 2: Influence in Decision Making

In Section 1 we will find out who holds power in Scotland, and we will look at the Scottish Office and the new Scottish Parliament and how they function.

In Section 2 we will explore how the media and pressure groups seek to influence local and national government policy.

Teacher notes

This unit should last approximately 40 hours. The pace and timings are, of course, dependent upon the nature of your group and your own particular interests. Throughout the unit there are various opportunities for students who complete tasks ahead of others to engage in some research. The resources within your own centre will determine whether or not this is a feasible option.

The time scale could be as follows:

Section 1: Power

- (a) The background – 6-8 hours
- (b) The Scottish Office – 4-5 hours
- (c) The Scottish Parliament – 6-8 hours

Section 2: Influence

- (a) The media – 4-5 hours
- (b) Pressure groups (general) – 4-5 hours
- (c) Pressure groups (case studies) – 6-8 hours

Reinforcement and revision – 2-3 hours

Unit assessment – 40 minutes

Reassessment (if required) – 40 minutes

