

# S2 Modern Studies

## Comparative Study

### Pupil Instruction Booklet



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## The Background

In Modern Studies you are asked to examine the lives of people in Scotland and to compare them to the lives of people in other countries around the world. This helps us understand different cultures and ways of life. There are a number of countries around the world that have different ideologies (ideas about how we should live and how our country should be run) to Scotland and it is part of our education as a global citizen to learn about these differences.

## The Task

You are going to compare life in Scotland to another country of your choice. You will do some research on both Scotland and the country you have chosen. You will be given time to complete this in class and your teacher will help you to choose a suitable country to compare to Scotland.

You can present your findings in anyway you choose! You can create a power point or a Prezi presentation. You can use Microsoft Word or Publisher. You can record you your findings. You can present your work as an infographic. It's up to you!

This booklet will help you with each stage of your research. Follow the instructions closely and make sure that you ask your teacher if you are unsure of what you need to do.



## Step 1 - Choosing a country

For this activity, we suggest that you choose from the following countries:



Russia – Has a population of around 142 million people. It is one of the most influential countries in the world. Led by President Vladimir Putin. Putin has been in the news recently about his controversial views on gay rights.



Saudi Arabia – Has a population of around 28 million people. It is known as the birthplace of Islam. King SALMAN bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud ascended to the throne in 2015. In January 2016, Saudi Arabia executed 47 people on charges of terrorism.



North Korea – Has a population of around 25 million people. It is ruled by Kim Jong Un. North Korea is a very secretive country and has been in the news recently for testing its Nuclear Missiles.



Nigeria – Population of around 182 million people. Nigeria became an independent country in 1960 and is the birthplace of Mr Ogburne! The President is Muhammadu BUHARI.



Zimbabwe – This African country has a population of around 14 million people. It used to be called Southern Rhodesia and was governed by the UK before its independence in 1980. President Mugabe of Zimbabwe has been a very controversial figure and has been accused of fixing elections in the country in the past.

Once you have read the information about each of the countries, decide which country you are going to research. Write the name of that country into your jotter. Tell your teacher which country you are going to study. Make sure you choose carefully because you will waste time if you change your mind later.

## Step 2 – Note taking and research

**It is important that you keep a record of the name and date and web address of any sources you use as you will need this later in your study.**

You are going to set out your notes. You will be asked to take notes under the following headings for **both** Scotland and the country you have chosen:

- **Politics** – in this section you will examine and compare the political situation in both Scotland and the country you have chosen. Use the following checklist as a guide:
  - ✓ Is the country a democracy or a dictatorship?
  - ✓ How many different political parties are there in the country?
  - ✓ Do the country hold elections to vote for their government? Does everyone in the country get to take part in the elections?
  - ✓ Are there any pressure groups in that country (these are groups who put pressure on the government about an issue they are passionate about to try to get the law changed).

### **MINI CONCLUSION – Overall, which country had the best political system and why?**

- **Human Rights** – In this section you will examine and compare how each country treats it's people.
  - ✓ Is there freedom of speech in the country? How do you know? Have there been examples of protests?
  - ✓ Has the media in that country been allowed to criticise their government?
  - ✓ Are people who are accused of a crime given a fair trial?
  - ✓ Are people who are convicted of committing a crime treated humanely?

### **MINI CONCLUSION – Overall, which country has the best record on Human Rights and why?**

- **Economy** – In this section you will examine and compare how each country makes money and how wealthy people living in that country are. You will also research how easy it is for people living in that country to make money and run their own business. You should look at:
  - ✓ Which other countries do Scotland and the country of your choice trade with?
  - ✓ How wealthy is the country (usually measured by GDP).
  - ✓ Does the country have a lot of natural resources such as diamonds or oil that it can mine and sell to other countries?
  - ✓ How well off are the people in the country? Is there a big gap between rich people and poor people? Or do most people have an equal amount of money?

**MINI CONCLUSION – Overall, which country has the best economy and why?**

- **Equality** – In this final section, you will look at how much equality there is within the country. You should look at:
  - ✓ Do women and men have equal rights in this country?
  - ✓ Do LGBT citizens have equal rights?
  - ✓ Do ethnic minorities have equal rights?

**MINI CONCLUSION – Overall, which country has the best record on equality and why?**

### **Step 3 – Overall Conclusion**

You should have come to a mini conclusion about each of your 4 sections.

In this section you should come to an overall conclusion about the difference between Scotland and the country you have chosen. You might find that:

Overall Scotland has a better political system, economy, equality and human rights record.

**OR**

Overall the country of your choice had a better political system, economy, equality and human rights record than Scotland

**OR**

Overall both countries are very similar when you compare their political systems, economy, equality and human rights records.

**OR**

There are some areas where Scotland is better than the country you have chosen but there are other areas where it is worse.

You could comment on whether things are improving in each of the 4 areas or getting worse in both Scotland and the country you have chosen.

For any conclusion you come to you must give examples from your findings. E.g – “Overall there are some areas where Scotland is better than Country X. Scotland is particularly strong on equality and has many laws to protect human rights such as The Equalities Act 2010 whereas Country X is not so good. They have no laws to protect gay people from discrimination however they are improving because they recently allowed women in their country to have the right to vote. There are however areas where country X is better than Scotland; for example, country X...”

## Section 4 – Source Analysis

In this section, you should choose a source that you used to find your information. This can be **any** source you used to find **any** piece of information during the course of your research. This could be:

- ✓ An Internet site that you used
- ✓ An interview you did
- ✓ A TV programme you watched
- ✓ A radio programme you listened to
- ✓ A Youtube video you watched
- ✓ A article you read in a newspaper
- ✓ An online article
- ✓ A questionnaire you did

For the source you choose, you should comment on what the advantages and disadvantages there were to using this source. For example you could write:

*“To find out about Human Rights in Saudi Arabia, I used the website <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/saudi-arabia>. This site was good because it gave me good examples of human rights abuses in Saudia Arabia such as the poor rights of prisoners. However one disadvantage of this web site was that it did not tell me what improvements Saudia Arabia had made to protecting human rights so it did not provide all the information I was looking for.”*