

**Modern Studies Association  
CONFERENCE 2007 SYNOPSIS OF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS**

**SPEAKERS**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>New Higher – The story so far</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>Larry Cheyne</b> SQA Qualifications Manager Modern Studies	<i>An overview of the 2007 exam, including analysis of pupil strengths and weaknesses. Comparisons to 2006 and learning points for 2007-08.</i>
<b>Keynote speaker 1 2007 Electoral Results</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>Professor John Curtice</b> University of Strathclyde	<i>An overview of the 2007 Scottish Parliament and local government elections. Analysis of the electoral system and voting behaviour. Learning points for the Parties and for the future of devolution.</i>
<b>Keynote Speaker 2 Media &amp; Voting Behaviour</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>Ken MacDonald</b> (BBC)	<i>With reference to the 2007 Scottish Parliament and local government elections, how the media influenced voting behaviour and comparisons to other UK elections. Impact of the media on Parties and politicians.</i>

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**MORNING WORKSHOPS**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Workshop 1</b> <b>Curriculum 4 Excellence</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>TBC</b>	<i>What does the Curriculum for Excellence mean to Modern Studies? How does it relate to 5-14 and Assessment is for Learning policies? Practical ideas about teaching and learning to meet the challenges of this major new initiative.</i>
<b>Workshop 2</b> <b>Government of Scotland</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>TBC</b>	<i>Decision making in Scotland looking at areas of cooperation and conflict between Westminster, the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Executive. Also areas of cooperation and conflict between local government and the Scottish Executive.</i>
<b>Workshop 3</b> <b>Pressure Groups</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>TBC</b>	<i>Role of pressure groups in a democracy. Can pressure groups influence decision making? The extent to which they hold government to account with reference to both the UK and Scottish Parliament.</i>
<b>Workshop 4</b> <b>Health &amp; Wealth</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>Dr Harry Burns</b> CMO, Scottish Executive	<i>Overview of health inequalities in Scotland compared to the UK. What action has been taken by the Scottish Executive and the extent to which these policies have been successful.</i>

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**AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Workshop 5</b> <b>Global Security &amp; Aid</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>John Sharp</b>	<i>First hand account of development aid in areas of conflict. John will share his experiences of working in the West Bank of Palestine and for OXFAM in Malawi.</i>
<b>Workshop 6</b> <b>USA</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>John McTaggart</b> Author & former Faculty Head Inverkeithing High School	<i>With an eye on the next Presidential elections, an exploration of the likely political issues. Where do the candidates and parties stand on these issues, what impact will these have on levels of participation?</i>
<b>Workshop 7</b> <b>European Union</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>TBC</b>	<i>Opportunities for cooperation and conflict with reference to social and economic issues. The focus will be on free movement of citizens "Vs" concerns over immigration and crime.</i>
<b>Workshop 8</b> <b>South Africa</b>	Wood Lecture Theatre W013	<b>Frank Cooney</b> Author & Teacher	<i>Is there a future for multi-party democracy in South Africa? An exploration of the links between socio-economic inequality and political participation, what effect this has on the government of South Africa at national, provincial and local levels.</i>