



Social Studies – Senior Phase Course Overview

Criminology

National Progression Award (NPA) Criminology (SCQF Level 5)

Entry Requirements: None needed but an interest in Criminology is beneficial.

Course Summary: This National Progression Award (NPA) introduces learners to criminology. Criminology is the scientific study of crime, including its causes, responses by the criminal justice system, and methods of prevention. This is an exciting course which focuses on topics such as forensics and reasons why people commit criminal acts.

You will develop investigation and research skills, plus a basic understanding of the criminal justice system. You will independently and as part of teams in class in researching and developing your skills and knowledge.

Three key areas we will cover will be:-

Crime in the community

Crime scenes

Crime – Social Equality(Modern Studies Unit).

Assessment: This course is internally assessed. You will need to pass three unit assessments to gain the qualification. There will not be an externally assessed exam.

Progression: This course is a very good qualification for students hoping to move on to further education in college in courses such as Social Science in particular. It may also be a good route into a Social Subject at National 5 or Higher level in S6 – particularly Sociology or Modern Studies.

History

How can we understand the world we live in without History? Current political and international issues cannot be fully understood without an appreciation of their roots in the past. To understand the society and world of today –you need to study History. History also develops a wide range of skills – powers of critical thinking, better use of language, improved writing skills.

National 4 & National 5 History (SCQF Levels 4&5)

Entry Requirements: None needed but S3 History is beneficial.

Course Summary: The National 4/5 History course enables learners to acquire knowledge and understanding, evaluate historical sources, be able to explain the impact of historical developments, analyse factors contributing towards historical developments and draw reasoned conclusions.

National 4 & 5 courses have 3 distinct units:

- * A British topic – The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770 – 1807
- * A Scottish topic – The Era of the Great War, 1910 – 1928
- * A European and World topic – Hitler and Nazi Germany, 1919 – 39

Assessment:

At National 4 the course assessment consists of 2 components: an end of unit assessment for each unit must be passed and an Added Value Unit (a research project).

At National 5 there is an assignment worth 20% of overall grade along with an exam (2h 20m).

Progression: A pass at National 4 History can lead to National 5 History. A pass at National 5 History can lead to Higher History.

Higher History (SCQF Level 6)

Entry Requirements:

- Pass at National 5 Level
- Higher in English or another Social Subject.

Course Summary: The Higher course consists of 3 units:

- Scottish History. Migration and Empire 1830 – 1939

This is a source-handling unit and consists of answering questions based on a set of sources.

- British History. Britain 1851 – 1951

An essay has to be written on 1 of the topics covered.

- European and the World. Appeasement and the Road to War, to 1939

An essay has to be written on 1 of the topics covered.

Assessment: At Higher there are two question papers worth 80 marks in total and an assignment worth 30 marks.

Progression: A pass at Higher History can lead to Advanced Higher History. Higher History is a valued entrance qualification for any course at University or College.

Advanced Higher History (SCQF Level 7)

Entry Requirements:

- Grades A or B at Higher History.

Course Summary: The Advanced Higher course studies – Germany: From Democracy to Dictatorship, 1918-39.

Assessment: At Advanced Higher the course consists of 2 components: a dissertation worth 50% and a final exam paper.

Progression:

Employers know the skills you have learnt in History will equip you well in whatever line of work you take up. History is seen as a valuable qualification in many jobs – Law, Journalism, Broadcasting, Accountancy, Architecture, the Civil Service, Libraries, and Museum Service. Advanced Higher History is a valued entrance qualification for any course at University or College. History can also create an interest and enjoyment which stays with you throughout your life.

Modern Studies

The Modern Studies course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas; and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship.

Pupils will be involved in cooperative, active learning where they will develop their analytical skills. The investigative and critical thinking activities in this course give learners important experience in contributing to group work and also working on their own. Learners will acquire attributes which will be important for their life and work.

National 4 & National 5 Modern Studies (SCQF Levels 4&5)

Entry Requirements: None needed for S3 Modern Studies is beneficial.

Course Summary: Content covered here is Crime and the Law; Democracy in Scotland and the UK and our chosen World Issue – Terrorism.

Assessment: Pupils must complete three end-of-unit assessments to pass the course and also an Added Value Unit (a research project) is compulsory at National 4 level. This research project lets the students choose an area of particular interest to them and investigate it through their own personal research supported by their class teacher. For National 5 Modern Studies, there is an external SQA assessment and an Assignment which makes up 20% of the overall grade. The National 5 exam consists of the assignment write-up (1 hour) and a 2h 20m exam.

Progression: A pass at National 4 Modern Studies can lead to National 5 Modern Studies. A pass at National 5 Modern Studies can lead to Higher Modern Studies.

Higher Modern Studies (SCQF Level 6)

Entry Requirements: A pass at National 5 Modern Studies. A Higher pass in Politics.

Course Summary:

The Higher course has three broad curricular areas which are:

- Crime and the Law
- Democracy in Scotland and the UK.
- International Issues – Development in Africa.

Assessment: The Higher assessment consists of a 1h 30m assignment and two exam papers. Paper 1 (1h 45m) essay based and Paper 2 (1h 15m) Skills based.

Progression: A pass at Higher Modern Studies can lead to Advanced Higher Modern Studies.

Many employers and universities regard a qualification in Modern Studies as particularly valuable. University courses in the Humanities, Journalism and Law are particularly keen on pupils who are qualified in Modern Studies.

People & Society

This course is ideally suited to pupils who may be interested in different aspects of social sciences. The course is an excellent stepping stone to National 5 Humanities courses in the senior phase. The theme next year will be the study of the West of Scotland.

People and Society is a flexible and inter-disciplinary course offering learners the opportunity to study themes, issues and topics of interest and relevance to them. It develops a range of skills as well as knowledge and understanding of people and society from across subject disciplines, drawing on the social studies, health and wellbeing, and religious and moral education curriculum areas. People and Society helps learners to make connections across subject disciplines.

Pupils will experience a wide range of outdoor learning experiences and will regularly visit parks and museums across the city. Pupils choosing People and Society should be keen to learn citizenship skills and enjoy outdoor activities.

National 3 and National 4 People and Society (SCQF Levels 3 & 4)

Entry Requirements: There are no official entry requirements for this course. This course is appropriate for a wide range of learners. Entry to this course is usually through recommendation from the Principal Teacher or staff within the Social Subjects faculty.

Course Summary: There are four main units contained within the course. People and Society has four sections:-

Investigating Skills; This is an inter-disciplinary unit investigating a social subject topic to develop investigation skills involving identifying sources of information, collecting information and organising information.

Comparing and Contrasting; Interdisciplinary unit to develop the skills of comparing and contrasting again with a social subject focus.

Making Decisions; Interdisciplinary unit which uses a social subject topic to develop decision making skills.

Added Value Unit; Study of a topic or issue taken from the Key Ideas studied in People and Society. Pupils will draw together their learning from the other units to complete this section.

Assessment: Pupils must successfully complete and pass all four units to pass the course. There is no final examination.

Progression: If learners study at National 3 level, they should continue on to an individual social subjects course at National 4 level. A National 4 pass in People and Society can be a stepping stone to National 5 courses across the social subjects and RMPS.

Politics

The Politics course enables learners to develop analytical, reasoned and critical argument which is crucial not only in this subject but in personal and vocational contexts. While Politics is in a sense everywhere and significant in everyone's lives there is no single focus, no entire approach that can provide all the answers to political questions. Higher Politics helps enlighten pupils in regards to who makes the big decisions that affect their lives.

Pupils will be involved in cooperative, active learning where they will develop their analytical skills. The investigative and critical thinking activities in this course give learners important experience in contributing to group work and also working on their own.

Particular knowledge, understanding and skills will be developed:

- political concepts, models and theories and the ability to relate these to past and current structures, institutions and practice.
- the work of major political theorists.
- how people participate in the political process and elections in different contemporary contexts.
- skills needed to interpret, analyse and evaluate political sources and election data.
- the ability to construct arguments and explanations which lead to informed and reasoned conclusions.

Higher Politics (SCQF Level 6)

Entry Requirements: This course is suited to pupils who have passed a Higher social subject in S5 or Higher English. Pupils will find the course builds upon the skills they have acquired in the faculty of Social Studies and RME. The Politics course is particularly accessible for those with Modern Studies, History and RMPS Highers.

Course Summary: The Higher course has three broad curricular areas which are Political Theory, Political Structures and Political Parties and Elections.

Assessment: The Higher exam consists of a 1h 30m assignment and two exam papers. Paper 1 (1h 45m) essay based and Paper 2 (1h 15m) Skills based.

Progression: Many employers and universities regard a qualification Higher Politics as particularly valuable. University courses in the Humanities, Economics and Law are particularly keen on pupils who are qualified in Politics.

Sociology

Introduction to Sociology

This is an offering for S4 Personal Development (1 period a week).

Entry Requirements: There are no specific entry requirements for this course but an interest in sociology is beneficial.

Course Summary: This course will cover research methods, sociological theories and culture and identity; Marxism/Capitalism/feminism and after that will hope to look at Human ecology.

Further investigations into Social Issues.

Assessment: There is no formal assessment as this is not an accredited course.

Progression: This course is recommended for any S4 pupils who would be interested in studying Higher Sociology in S5 or S6.

Higher Sociology (SCQF Level 6)

Entry Requirements: This course is suited to pupils who have passed a Higher social subject in S5 or Higher English. Pupils will find the course builds upon the skills they have acquired in the faculty of Social Studies and RME. The Politics course is particularly accessible for those with Modern Studies, History and RMPS Highers.

Course Summary: The Higher Sociology course helps learners to develop an understanding of society that goes beyond personal experience and common-sense explanations. They learn to think about human society, social issues, culture and identity from different points of view. They also learn about the key role of evidence in supporting explanations for human social behaviour and become familiar with research methods in Sociology.

Why study Sociology?

Sociology helps us look more objectively at our society and other societies. It directs attention to how the parts of society fit together and change, as well as makes us aware of the consequences of social change. We are faced with an ever increasingly complex and rapidly changing social world. Studying Sociology provides the tools and methods for understanding the social world around us from a variety of perspectives.

Content that is covered on the Higher course is the same and as follows;

Human society

Candidates develop an understanding of the sociological approach to studying human societies. They investigate the research methods used in sociology and describe relationships that exist among individuals, groups and institutions from different sociological perspectives.

Topics include – Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism.

Culture and identity

Candidates develop a basic knowledge and understanding of how to use sociological concepts to explain culture and identity. They investigate and explain the relationship between culture and identity and develop skills in collecting, using and communicating information from a range of sources. They also develop an awareness of diversity.

Topics include – Socialisation, Cultures and Sub-Cultures and Diversity.

Social issues

Candidates develop a sociological understanding of contemporary social issues. They develop knowledge of sociological theories and the terminology used to explain social issues. They also develop skills in using a range of sources, including research evidence, to justify points of view.

Topics include – Crime & Deviance and Education.

Assessment: The Higher exam consists of a 2 hour and 40 minute written exam worth 80 marks and an Assignment which is worth 30 marks.

Progression: A qualification in Sociology can lead to further study or employment in areas such as; Social Sciences, Humanities, Social Work, Police, Government and Law, Media, the Third Sector (charities), Research, Human Resources, Teaching and Youth Work.