

Modern Studies Advanced Higher

AWARD RECEIVED:

Advanced Higher – Modern Studies

ENTRY LEVEL:

You will normally be expected to have attained a pass at Higher Modern Studies, preferably at grade A or B. Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits.

COURSE CONTENT:

The course is Social Issues and Research Methods. It has three sections: **Law and Order** (80 hour teacher led unit), **Research Methods** (40 hour teacher led unit) and the **Dissertation** (40 hour teacher led unit).

1. Law and Order

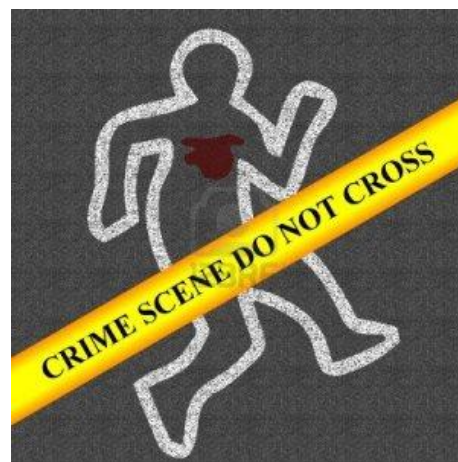
This section focuses on the following two study areas:

a. Understanding Criminal Behaviour:

This unit considers: the nature and extent of criminal behaviour, theories of criminal behaviour and finally the social and economic effects of criminal behaviour.

b. Responses by Society to Crime

This unit evaluates: current responses to crime and associated theories, for example, custodial and non-custodial sentences.

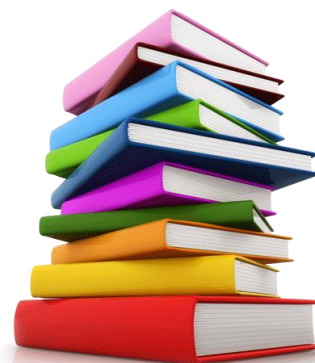


2. Research Methods

This section considers the advantages and disadvantages of different research methodologies, for example face-to-face interviews, and the moral and ethical issues associated with such studies.

3. Project: Dissertation

In this section you are required to carry out an independent research project which leads to the production of a 4000-5000 word dissertation. The dissertation should be based on a contemporary issue raised in the Law and Order unit and must include both primary and secondary research. This gives you the opportunity to develop, in a social science context, the skills of: planning, researching, analysing, synthesising, drawing conclusions and presenting.



TEACHING METHODS:

In Advanced Higher Modern Studies you will be working as an individual for much of the time, however, paired, group and whole class activities will also take place. The lessons will focus on developing your skills through participating in presentations, debates, investigations and so on. Your teacher will endeavour to make your learning as active and engaging as possible. Advanced Higher Modern Studies teaches you many skills that you will use at university and in later life.

ASSESSMENT:

You must complete a combination of assessments to successfully complete the course.

	Advanced Higher
Unit Assessments	There will be a series of assessments to complete during the year. You must meet the appropriate level of competence in these assessments to continue with the course. These will be marked by your teacher.
Added Value (This is SQA language for a piece of course-work.)	In Advanced Higher the Added Value element is the dissertation. It is submitted in April and is marked by the SQA. It is worth 50 marks. (For additional information see above)
Course Assessment (Exam)	The final exam has two components, worth a total of 140 marks: Component One: There is a three hour examination worth 90 marks. It consists of: 2 essays worth 30 marks each (60 marks) and a research section which has two 15 mark questions (30 marks). Component Two: The dissertation, worth 50 marks.

HOMEWORK:

Specific homework exercises, which are marked and recorded by the teacher, are set throughout the course. However, many of your homework tasks require significant independent research, analysis, and organization.

PROGRESSION:

An Advanced Higher award could lead to a university/college degree course and/or employment in fields such as: law, education, journalism and social work.