**MODERN STUDIES ADVANCED HIGHER**

**CONTENT**

The study theme chosen is Law and Order. Students will study TWO contexts, along with a unit on practical social research and their dissertation.

Context B: Understanding criminal behaviour

* The causes of crime with reference to the relative merits of sociological, psychological and physiological theories.
* The relationship between crime and various social and economic factors.
* The social and economic effects of crime on individuals, communities, businesses and public services.

Context C: Responses by society to crime

* The aims, purposes and effectiveness of the UK penal systems.
* The alternatives to imprisonment
* An international comparison of criminal justice systems.
* Responses of the main political parties to the penal systems in the UK.

Social Research Methods

* Study a range of social research methods such as interviewing, questionnaires, surveys, media analysis, official statistics;
* Study of ethical issues concerning research, the principles involved in sampling, statistical techniques and research terminology, as well as the reliability and validity of statistics and conducted research.

Practical Research

* Individual research for a dissertation (maximum 5,000 words) covering a topic from within the two chosen contexts of study.

**INTERNAL ASSESSMENT**

A series of internal assessments cover all elements of the course and will be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

**EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT**

One 3 hour exam testing knowledge of both areas as well as aspects of Social Research Methods. This will consist of two essays worth 30 marks each, and two social research questions worth 30 marks in total. The dissertation is worth 50 marks and is externally assessed.

**HOMEWORK**

There is a fair amount of individual reading, research and preparation for assessments that pupils will be expected to plan and prioritise. Given the nature of the course content, students will need to be fully aware of the media, watching and reading the news regularly so as to build a bank of case studies to exemplify concepts and issues studied in class.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Students should have a minimum of a grade C in Higher Modern Studies. Students who have not studied Higher Modern Studies, but who have passed any other Humanities subject at Higher level are also welcome. Students should also have a good ability in English, preferably an A or B pass in Higher.