DEPARTMENT:	**MODERN STUDIES**
TITLE OF COURSE:	**MODERN STUDIES**
LEVEL:	**ADVANCED HIGHER**
RECOMMENDED ENTRY LEVELS:	**A pass in Higher Modern Studies preferably at A or B** **Recommended pass in Higher English**

The Advanced Higher course combines the whole class teaching experienced in previous Modern Studies courses with increasing opportunities for individual disciplined study. As such it offers valuable preparation for the skills needed to achieve success at university.

COURSE CONTENT:

Social Issues and Research Methods (Law and Order)
This topic covers aspects of law and order. Theories of crime and its causes will be examined and conclusions drawn in order to understand criminal behaviour. Secondly, to determine the responses by society to crime students will study the ways in which police, courts and the Government seek to tackle crime. Party policies on law and order and current law and order issues will be examined. The effectiveness of prison as a means of reducing crime and of rehabilitating prisoners is also studied, along with alternatives to prison.

METHODOLOGY:

Students will be taught 5 periods per week and should use study time for independent study, reading and research. Key lessons will be teacher led with notes and articles issued for reading. Essays will be given to assess understanding of the coursework. Students will be asked to prepare information in the form of a presentation to the rest of the class.

An integral part of the course is the use of **research methods**. Throughout the coursework opportunities for undertaking primary research by carrying out interviews, fieldwork or surveys will be exploited. Students will arrange and prepare surveys, interviews etc. and organise visits eg to the HMP Grampian. The reliability and usefulness of both the method of research and the information gained will be evaluated.

The skills and knowledge gained in these activities will be useful when carrying out the research for the **Dissertation**. The dissertation of approximately 5000 words is a personal piece of work, researched and written throughout the year, with teacher input.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is carried out in two forms – internally on completion of a unit and externally via the dissertation and a final exam lasting three hours. There are two UASPs, an essay and a research methods assessment.