

Supporting Advanced Higher Modern Studies candidates

Course structure

Advanced Higher Modern Studies is essentially the equivalent of a first-year Undergraduate 'Criminology' course. In studying the course, candidates complete three distinct units:

1. **'Understanding criminal behaviour'**. Candidates learn about the causes and theories of crime both in the UK and internationally and consider how definitions or crime shift worldwide. The impacts of crime on several groups are also considered.
2. **'Responses by society to crime'**. Candidates study the myriad of ways society punishes offenders and consider the relative advantages and disadvantages of these punishments, both in the UK and abroad.
3. **'Social sciences research methodology'**. Candidates learn about the various ways primary research is conducted, such as interviews and surveys, and discuss the merits and limitations of these methods.

Course assessment

In session 2020-2021, Advanced Higher Modern Studies will be assessed by both an SQA exam and a Dissertation. This is subject to change, depending on the public health situation. In the exam, candidates will have one Question Paper, lasting 3 hours. In the paper, candidates will answer two essays questions (one for each of the first two units outlined in the earlier section), and then address two source questions that assess their knowledge of social sciences research methodology. Before the exam, candidates will also have completed their Dissertations. These projects are research-based, and involve the candidates writing 5,000 words in response to a title taken from the SQA website. Candidates have been October and February/March to work on these Dissertations, with deadlines for drafts communicated clearly to candidates.

Key hints and tips

In Advanced Higher Modern Studies, essay paragraphs should be a standard format – Point, Analysis, Comparison, and Evaluation – the "PACE" technique. The 'Point' section introduces what the paragraph will discuss, while Analysis provides the supporting or counter-evidence. When it comes to Analysis, candidates should preference remarks with phrases

such as, 'As a consequence', 'As a result', 'This illustrates', 'This shows', etc. In drawing Evaluation, candidates should seek command phrases and words like, "Overall", "In summary", "In conclusion", etc.

When it comes to the source questions in the exam, candidates will have practiced similar questions in class, although their Dissertations will expose them to different forms of methodology, so candidates should continue to think critically about sources – and their merits. Although crude, the 'CRAP' technique developed by US academics (Currency, Reliability, Authority, and Purpose) is often a helpful reminder.

If candidates are practicing essay technique, they should be encouraged to follow the time limits of the real SQA exam. For an essay, candidates would have 1 hour per essay in the exam, with 30 minutes for each source-based methodology question.

Useful revision resources

Google Classroom

Google Classroom has been used extensively since the start of the school session. Therefore, the 'Classwork' tab is full of course notes and materials, as well as feedback on previous work. Candidates can use this feedback to help them improve. At the top of the tab, there's an assignment labelled as "OPTIONAL" – this is where candidates can upload additional revision work for marking and feedback.

Past papers

The SQA [website](#) features past papers for all subjects, going back up to 5 years in some subjects. These past papers come with full marking instructions. This can be used to help candidates further practice essay technique and enquiry skill questions.

SQA Understanding Standards

Another helpful website from the SQA is 'Understanding Standards'. On here, candidates will find real exemplar work, marked by the SQA. It is freely available via this [link](#) for all National Qualification subjects.

Helpful texts

There are no course textbooks for Advanced Higher Modern Studies, but candidates seeking such readings might consider "Criminology" by Tim Newburn, and "Crime and Society in Britain" Hazel Croall. These books cover all aspects of Criminology.