

Criminology

Awarding Body: WJEC

Level: Level 3 Applied Diploma

Introduction

This course will offer you an exciting insight into the field of Criminology. You will study crime, deviance and the criminal justice system. You will develop your understanding of the key concepts, theories and principles of criminology and their application across a range of case studies and examples. You will also get a chance to learn about different methods of collecting evidence, the processes happening in the courtroom and the types of punishment available in the UK.

This Level 3 Diploma is offered to students who have a keen interest in crime. You need to be non-judgemental, be very interested in people, society and crime, be able to work under pressure and be self-motivated. 50% of the course will be assessed via coursework, so you need to be prepared to present a high standard of English to complete your written analysis of various case studies.

Year one content

There are four areas to study across two years. In the first year, you will be studying:

- **Unit 1: Changing awareness of crime** – we will start this unit with learning about different types of crime and looking into statistics to see how crime is measured; we will then assess the role of media in representing the crime; finally, you will understand how to construct a campaign action that can raise awareness of certain social issues
- **Unit 2: Criminological theories** – in this unit, you will learn about the reasons behind criminal behaviour; from biological to social factors, we will be assessing what makes people become criminals

Year two content

- **Unit 3: Crime Scene and Courtroom** – this will be your chance to understand the investigators' point of view and learn how forensic evidence is collected; you will also be taught about the processes happening in the courtroom

- **Unit 4: Crime and Punishment** – as the title suggest, you will learn about what makes an effective punishment; your teachers will explain different ways of dealing with criminals once they are convicted, and it will be up to you to evaluate how effective each method is and which crime problem could it solve

What you need

At least a grade 4 in GCSE English Language and a grade 4 in GCSE Biology, or grade 4/4 in Combined Science, or distinction in BTEC Science. Students cannot choose Criminology and Psychology together.

Assessment

50% exam based (units 2 and 4); 50% coursework based (units 1 and 3).

Coursework is fixed by the exam board and school, which means you will be given a date when your internal assessment is taking place: unit 1 in year 12 and unit 3 in year 13. You will receive a scenario and you will be given a certain number of hours to analyse it in context of the knowledge you gained throughout the course.

The final exam for unit 2 and 4 will happen in the summer of year 12 and 13 along with other A-Level subjects.

Career and further study

The course will provide the underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills to allow you to progress to further study and training. It is relevant to many jobs within the criminal justice sector, including the police, probation service, prison and rehabilitation service, social workers and other legal professions. With critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, criminology students are also attractive to employers outside the criminal justice sector in areas such as social research and politics.

The WJEC course has been recognised by universities across the UK and carries necessary UCAS points should you wish to enter higher education.

Textbook

Every student is expected to buy their own textbook – details will be given in your summer homework booklets prior to the course.