

Criminology

General Information

Criminology is the scientific study of criminal behaviour, laws and justice. Criminology is a fascinating subject which explores crime and deviance drawing upon sociological, psychological and legal disciplines. During the course you will focus on how criminal behaviour can be defined, explained and the impact that crime has on society. Questions such as 'Why do people commit crime?' 'How should we punish offenders' and 'What is the role of the criminal justice system?' will be answered during the course.

Examination details

Assessment is by controlled assessment in college (Units 1 and 3) and external examination (Units 2 and 4), students will be assessed in both first and second year.

How is Criminology taught?

A variety of methods are used including teacher led discussion, individual tasks, group work, exam question practice and project-based research, development and presentation. Throughout the course you will develop independent research, essay writing, time management and organisational skills.

Useful / common subject combinations

Criminology combines well with a broad range of subjects as it appeals to people who are interested in society, people and the law. Popular combinations are with Sociology, Psychology, Law, English, Geography, Business Studies, and Philosophy.

Level 3 Applied Diploma



Entry requirements

You should have at least a grade 4 in GCSE English.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.

Criminology

Level 3 Applied Diploma

Course content

Unit 1 – The changing awareness of crime

You will explore the wide range of different crimes and the reasons people have for not reporting such crimes.

You will gain an understanding of the complexity of behaviours and the social implications of such crimes and criminality. You will also be able to differentiate between myth and reality and to recognise where common representations of crime may be misleading and inaccurate.

Unit 2 - Criminological Theories

You will gain a strong understanding of the theories used to explain different types of crime which will give you an insight into the thinking used by experts and politicians to explain crime and criminality.

As public law makers are informed by theory you will learn how these theories have been applied to creating solutions to the problem of crime. By undertaking this unit, you will learn to support, challenge and evaluate expert opinion and be able to support your ideas with reliable and factual evidence.

Unit 3 – Crime Scene to Courtroom

You will learn about the different people and agencies involved in the criminal trial process. Learning about the different roles will give you a clearer insight into what happens once a crime is detected and the process that leads to either a guilty or non-guilty verdict. You will gain a detailed understanding of the strict rules

as to how evidence is collected from a crime scene and also strict rules governing the giving of evidence in court. You will be able to assess whether the aims of the criminal justice system have been met and the use of lay people in determining the fate of a suspect.

Unit 4 – Crime and Punishment

You will explore the complex system of mechanisms, processes and organisations that society has created to ensure people do not break the law. These social institutions each have different mechanisms, ideologies and policies. You will learn something of their variety, how they work and their effectiveness in preventing and protecting us from criminality.

Careers / HE information

Studying Criminology at Level 3 will develop core academic and employability skills such as oral and written communication, team work, resilience and independence. Furthermore, the course is designed to make the content vocationally relevant in order to prepare you with the skills and knowledge leading to university courses or careers in Criminology.

Specific career paths include: Policing, Prison Service, Social Work, Probation Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Youth Work and many more