

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 (Units 1 and 3) and external examination (Units 2 and 4). Unit 1 and 2 will be assessed in first year and units 3 and 4 assessed in 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 other subjects as it appeals to students who are interested in society and people. Popular combinations include History, English Language, Geography, Business Studies, Media Studies, and Film Studies.

Level 3 Applied Diploma

(Exam board – WJEC
(Specification code: 601/6248/X



Entry requirements

You will need at least a grade 4 in GCSE English Language

Criminology

Level 3 Applied Diploma

Course content

Unit 1 – The changing awareness of crime – assessed via controlled assessment in year 1.

You will explore the wide range of different crimes including white collar crimes, moral crimes, state crime, individual crimes (e.g. domestic violence) and technological crimes. You will examine the reasons people have for not reporting such crimes and the consequences of these crimes going unreported. You will also look at how the media represents crime to be able to recognise where common representations of crime may be misleading and inaccurate. You will study real examples of campaigns that have led to changes in law and awareness e.g. Sarah's Law. This unit will conclude with you developing the knowledge and practical skills to plan and create your own campaign for change.

Unit 2 – Criminological Theories – external examination – year 1

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 - controlled assessment - year 2

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 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 - external examination – year 2

You will explore the complex system of organisations and processes that society has created to ensure people do not break the law. For example, you will look at organisations such as the police, Crown Prosecution Service, prisons and probation. These social institutions each have different roles, principles and policies. You will learn about their roles, limitations and evaluate their effectiveness in protecting us from crime. You will also consider the role of pressure groups and charities in controlling criminality in society.

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 further study or careers in Criminology. Specific career paths include: Policing, Prison Service, Social Work, Probation Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Youth Work and many more.