

WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology

WHAT IS CRIMINOLOGY?

Criminology is the scientific study of criminal behaviour on individual, social and natural levels, and how it can be managed, controlled and prevented.

This course will enable students to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and make recommendations for policy. Students also develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases.



WHY SHOULD I STUDY CRIMINOLOGY?

You should study Criminology if you are thinking of studying other related humanities subjects at A Level, such as Psychology, Law, Sociology and are interested in learning more about the Criminal Justice System in the UK, such as, why offenders commit crimes and how we punish them.

Criminology works to develop a range of transferable skills for your future career, including oral and written communication skills, the ability to solve problems, builds project-based research and development and presentation skills.

USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

It is important that you are prepared to read around the content and consider how real life crimes and court cases could be explained using criminological theories. This means articles in “quality” broadsheet newspapers and magazines, as well as books. An interest in current events is also helpful to gain inspiration for your assignments and apply your knowledge to real life practice. An interest in the criminal mind and behaviour is also beneficial, as is exploring historic and infamous crimes.

COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT

Criminology is a fascinating interdisciplinary subject that draws on elements of Law, Psychology and Sociology to examine how crime is defined, why people commit crimes, the perceptions of crime, why some crimes are unreported, how society responds to criminal activity and how we punish offenders.

We explore crime statistics and how we can reduce crime rates and successfully rehabilitate criminal individuals, as well as how physical evidence such as hairs, blood and fingerprints are collected from crime scenes and how this can prove innocence or guilt in the courtroom.

There will be opportunities to debate the controversial criminological theories of crime and investigate their implications in our Criminal Justice System.

Studying criminology will allow you to understand the culture of crime and the workings of the criminal justice system alongside giving you the opportunity to delve further into biological, individualistic and sociological reasons for criminal behaviour including exploring criminal personality traits, the born criminal and subcultures.

All these exciting topics are woven into our following four units:

Unit	Detail	Assessment
Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime (First Year)	Types of crime, crime statistics and reasons why crime goes unreported. Creating a campaign to raise awareness of crime	Controlled Assessment: A research-based project, lasting 8 hours of in class time
Unit 2: Criminological Theories (First Year)	Psychological, Sociological and Criminological theories exploring why people become criminals	External Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom (Second Year)	What happens once a crime has been reported? From collection of evidence to prosecution.	Controlled Assessment: A research-based project, lasting 8 hours of in class time
Unit 4: Crime and Punishment (Second Year)	Outlining the role and process of the Criminal Justice System. Forms of social control and punishment.	External Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This course consists of two 8-hour, controlled assessments held December - January (Units 1 and 3) and two external exams held in May - June (Units 2 and 4)

COURSE COMMITMENT

If you choose to study Criminology, you will need to be prepared to carry out your own research, both practical and theory, outside the classroom. This may involve case studies of individual crimes, research into local crime statistics and preparation for the controlled assessment.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For entry on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9), with a grade 5 in English Literature or English Language

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Studying Criminology at college supports entry onto further study of Criminology, Policing, Psychology, Law, Sociology, Social Care or other Humanities based subjects at University

The course will develop a wide range of skills and knowledge relevant to many job roles within the Criminal Justice sector such as Policing, Prison Service, Forensic Science, Probation and the Courts.

STUDENT COMMENTS:

"I enjoy studying the different aspects to a crime & reasoning rather than just looking at the criminal and crime."

"Research into the theories of criminality and understanding how each theory changes reasoning for crime is interesting."

FURTHER INFORMATION

Full course specifications can be found at:

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/criminology-level-3/#tab_keydocuments

Should you require further information please contact the Law or Psychology teams.

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision.
May 2023*