

Criminology

WJEC Level 3 Diploma

Examination Board: WJEC

Staff Lead

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Why Study Criminology?

Criminology allows you to embrace the scientific study of criminal behaviour. You will leave the criminology course with an extensive understanding of the criminal justice system, a variety of different crimes and their consequences and an ability to analyse types of offenders. The course is rich in criminological theory and you will develop the ability to apply biological, individualistic and sociological theories to explain the potential causes of criminal behaviour.

Real life crimes are embedded throughout the course and you will not only get the chance to consider the causes of this criminal behaviour but you will also investigate the forensic evidence involved in securing the conviction and legal processes involved.

The course is assessed through a mixture of examinations and controlled assessments (NEA). Both controlled assessments foster the development of transferrable skills such as critical thinking, time management and report writing. This course will equip you with the skills that are relevant for industry and university studies, whilst fostering a real empathy and appreciation for justice, moral and ethical issues.

Examination units – units 2 & 4. Both examination units are 1 hour 30 minutes and contain a range of short answer and extended writing questions. These are both sat at the end of Year 13.

Controlled assessment units – unit 1 & 3. One controlled assessment is sat in Year 12 and one is sat in Year 13. These are completed in computer rooms over an 8-hour period and involve responding to an unseen crime brief.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

This course provides a useful foundation for degree courses in areas associated with criminology. It is also relevant for various careers including the police force, the prison service, probation, the courts and the law.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5.

Recommended - English GCSE grade 5 and Science GCSE grade 4 or above.

The Modules

Unit 1 Changing Awareness of Crime Controlled assessment unit (25% of Applied Diploma)	There are many reasons that crimes go unreported and the purpose of this unit is to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of these crimes. They will also develop skills needed to plan for a campaign for change, whether a change in awareness, policy or action.
Unit 2 Criminological Theories Examination unit (25% of Applied Diploma)	Criminologists have produced theoretical explanations of why people commit crime, but which is the most useful? Knowing about the different types of crime and the criminological approaches to theory will give you a sharper insight into the kind of thinking used by experts and politicians to explain crime and criminality. 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 unit (25% of Applied Diploma)	Throughout this unit, learners will develop an understanding of the personnel involved in criminal investigations and the techniques that are used to help identify the culprit. The criminal trial process involves many different people and agencies. Learning about the roles of these 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. At the end of this unit you will have gained the skills to review criminal cases, evaluating the evidence in the cases to determine whether the verdict is safe and just.
Unit 4 Crime and Punishment Examination unit (25% of Applied Diploma)	The purpose of this unit is for learners to develop skills in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the process of social control in delivering policy in practice.