

Criminology

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Entry Requirements

5 in English Language

Exam Board

WJEC

Why study Sociology?

Criminology is the study of crime, criminal behaviour, and the criminal justice system. You will explore why individuals commit crime, how crime is investigated, and how society responds through punishment and prevention. The course combines elements of psychology, sociology, and law, allowing you to apply your knowledge to real-life cases and contemporary issues. You will also develop analytical and practical skills through coursework and exams, preparing you for further study or careers linked to crime and justice.

Topics covered at A level:

Unit 1 Changing Awareness of Crime

Key questions include - What different types of crime exist? How has crime reporting changed over time? How do campaigns influence public awareness of crime?

Unit 2 Criminological Theories

Key questions include - Why do people commit crime? How do biological, psychological and sociological theories explain criminal behaviour?

Unit 3 Crime Scene to Courtroom

Key questions include - How are crimes investigated? What procedures are followed to secure convictions in court?

Unit 4 Crime and Punishment

Key questions include - How effective are different punishments? How does the justice system aim to control crime and reduce reoffending?

Method of Assessment

Level 3 Applied Diploma:

Unit 1 Internal controlled assessment

Unit 2 External exam (1 hour 30 minutes)

Unit 3 External exam (1 hour 30 minutes)

Unit 4 Internal controlled assessment

Qualities Required

Students need an enquiring and analytical mind, an interest in crime and current affairs, and the ability to apply knowledge to real-life situations. Strong written communication skills and the ability to think critically about evidence and arguments are also important.

Links with other subjects

Criminology combines well with both social science and humanities subjects. It complements subjects such as Sociology, Psychology, Law, and Health and Social Care, as well as English and History, due to the focus on analysis, evaluation, and essay writing.

WJEC Level 3 Criminology contributes significantly to personal development by building a range of valuable skills and insights into crime and social control. It supports intellectual development by encouraging critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation of different criminological theories, helping students understand why individuals commit crime and how society responds. It also strengthens communication skills, as students are required to write structured reports, construct arguments, and apply evidence to real-life case studies. In addition, criminology promotes social and moral development by exploring issues such as criminal behaviour, justice, punishment, and inequality, helping students develop empathy, ethical awareness, and a sense of fairness. The subject further enhances cultural awareness by examining how crime and justice vary across different groups and societies, contributing to a broader understanding of diversity and social issues. Moreover, criminology supports personal identity development by encouraging learners to reflect on how social factors, such as upbringing, environment, and media, can influence behaviour and perceptions of crime. Finally, it prepares students for future life by equipping them with transferable skills and applied knowledge relevant to careers in areas such as policing, law, psychology, and social work, enabling them to engage responsibly and thoughtfully with the criminal justice system and wider society.

Career Prospects

Many students go on to Higher Education to study degrees such as Criminology, Law, Psychology, Sociology, or Policing. The course also supports careers in areas



such as the police service, probation work, forensics, law, social work, and the wider criminal justice system.

Students develop the ability to present balanced arguments, analyse evidence, and think critically. These skills are highly valued in a wide range of careers, as well as in further education and apprenticeships.