

# **Criminology Curriculum Overview**

## **Criminology – Intent**

The purpose of the WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology is to provide students with an introduction to criminal justice through a scientific study of criminal behaviour and to give a context for humanities learning. It is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities. It has been designed to offer exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for students through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system. An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology. This insight will enable students to make informed decisions about potential future career routes. It also helps students to understand the criminal justice system which impacts on their own behaviour and conduct in UK society. It requires students to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society, and the environment. Ultimately students will develop a critical and focused criminological mind. The staff's commitment and enthusiasm for the subject ensures that high standards are set which fuel students' aspirations through their own conduct; support of the Notley High School and Braintree Sixth Form values, and the expectations for all students.

## **Criminology – Implementation**

The Criminology course is designed to give the opportunity for students to be awarded either the WJEC Applied Certificate or Applied Diploma. It is accessible for all students as it is graded A\*-E.

The first unit (1: Changing Awareness of Crime) will enable the students to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported.

The second unit (2: Criminological Theories) will allow students to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1. To gain the Applied Diploma students study a further two units and draw upon their knowledge developed in the first year of the course.

The third unit (3: Crime Scene to Courtroom) will provide an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Students will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

In the final unit (4: Crime and Punishment), students will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

Unit 1 and 3 are assessed through controlled assessment tasks and Unit 2 and 4 are assessed through a two-hour external examination. This means the course is suitable for different types of learners. For the controlled assessment units each assessment criteria is marked over a series

of mark bands allowing accessibility for all learners. The applied nature of the course allows students to learn in such a way that they develop skills required for independent learning and development, a range of generic and transferable skills such as critical thinking, and report writing and time management, the ability to solve problems, the skills of project-based research, development and presentation, the ability to work alongside others and the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

Throughout the course students will be expected to work independently as reading/researching around topics areas is vital to further develop knowledge and understanding. This is encouraged through keeping up to date with the latest news and watching television documentaries. Many students do this anyway as they have a personal interest in this genre to start with. Criminology is a popular subject with the media so there is always a wealth of information to be gained from these sources and students are keen to do this in their own time. They are also eager to discuss what they have learned in lesson. Students will complete work outside of lesson, through designated homework tasks to meet stringent deadlines. Using OneNote will allow this to take place.

## **Year 12**

**Criminology - Year 12 Unit 1 - Changing Awareness of Crime.**

The content of the Year 12 Criminology course is not reliant on prior learning. All written skills and numerical techniques will be delivered and developed during the two year course.

What are we learning?	What knowledge, understanding and skills will we gain?	Evaluation and assessment methods	Implementation	What additional resources are available?
<p><b>Changing Awareness of Crime.</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> Understand how crime reporting affects the public perception of criminality; to be able to analyse different types of crime, to explain why crimes are unreported, explain the consequences of unreported crime, to describe media representation of a crime, to explain the impact of media representation and to evaluate the methods of collecting statistics about crime. Understand how campaigns are used to elicit change; to be able to compare campaigns for change and to evaluate the effectiveness of media used in campaigns for change. To plan a campaign for change relating to crime; to plan a campaign for change, to design materials to use in the campaign and to justify the campaign which has been created.</p> <p><b>Understanding:</b> Students will understand the different types of crime that exist in society, they will be able to explain why some crimes go unreported and to be able to analyse the effect of this on crime statistics. Students will be able to review existing campaigns, they will compare these and evaluate the use of media throughout the campaigns. They will also be able to design their own campaign for change, this will include the creation of resources to promote the campaign.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Students will gain skills in research, understanding and learning subject specific terminology, the ability to evaluate campaigns and data, to summarise information into key points and to reference case studies to support their work.</p>	<p>Students working independently to learn and understand the subject matter covered.</p> <p>Students being able to write detailed notes to support their work in the Controlled Assessment.</p> <p>An ability to evaluate the reporting of crime and campaigns created to elicit change.</p> <p>An ability to reference appropriate case studies and sources to support points being made.</p> <p>Students will be able to use what they have learnt to create their own campaign for change relating to crime.</p>	<p>As a new subject to students there are limited links to prior learning in the first term.</p> <p>Students may have an understanding of the legal process and court systems.</p>	<p>Criminology textbook WJEC.</p>

**Criminology - Year 12 Unit 2 - Criminological Theories**

<b>What are we learning?</b>	<b>What knowledge, understanding and skills will we gain?</b>	<b>Evaluation and assessment methods</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>What additional resources are available?</b>
<p><b>Criminological Theories</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge:</b> Understand social constructions of criminality; to be able to compare criminal behaviour and deviance and to explain the social construction of criminality. Known theories of criminality; to be able to describe biological theories of criminality, to describe individualistic theories of criminality and sociological theories of criminality. Understand causes of criminality; to be able to analyse situations of criminality and evaluate the effectiveness of criminological theories to explain causes of criminality. Understand causes of policy change; to be able to assess the use of criminological theories in informing policy development, to explain how social changes affect policy development and to discuss how campaigns effect policy making.</p> <p><b>Understanding:</b> Students will understand the difference between crime and deviance. Students will be able to describe biological, psychological and sociological explanations of crime, while evaluating the strengths and limitations of the theories. Students will apply these theories to scenarios and explain key criminal behaviour. Students will be able to describe policies put in place to reduce crime from a biological, psychological and sociological standpoint, and evaluate how effective they are at reducing crime. Students will look at home crimes have changed over time, place and culture and how campaigns have affected new policies being put in place.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Students will gain skills in research, understanding and learning subject specific terminology, the ability to understand causes and theories of criminality, to summarise information into key points and to reference case studies to support their work.</p>	<p>Students working independently to learn and understand the subject matter covered.</p> <p>Students being able to write detailed notes to support their work.</p> <p>An ability to understand and evaluate theories of criminality.</p> <p>An ability to reference appropriate case studies and sources to support points being made.</p> <p>Students will be able to create resources to revise the content covered in preparation for their exams.</p>	<p>Students will be able to build on the prior learning of campaigns for change under Unit 1.</p> <p>Students will build on their understanding of deviant and criminal behaviour from Unit 1.</p>	<p>Criminology textbook WJEC.</p>

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