

Criminology

Qualification Level: WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate & Diploma in Criminology

Qualification Duration: 2 years

Exam Board: WJEC

Intro:

Criminology is the scientific study of the nature, extent, management, causes, control, consequences, and prevention of criminal behaviour, both on individual and social levels. Criminology is an area of sociology that focuses on that study of crimes and their causes, effects, and social impact. A criminologist's job responsibilities involve analysing data to determine why the crime was committed and to find ways to predict, deter, and prevent further criminal behaviour. The qualification is designed to support learners' progression to university and can work alongside a range of A-level options.

Course content

1) Changing Awareness of Crime

Knowing about the wide range of different crimes and the reasons people have for not reporting such crimes will provide an understanding of the complexity of behaviours and the social implications of such crimes and criminality.

2) Criminology Theories

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. Public law makers are informed by theory and apply these theories to their own 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

3) Crime Scene to Courtroom

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. There are strict rules as to how evidence is collected from a crime scene and also strict rules governing the giving of evidence in court; learning about these rules will allow you to review the trial process and assess whether the aims of the criminal justice system have been met. You may be familiar with the role of the jury in the Crown Court, but you may not be aware of the many different factors that influence jury decision-making. By undertaking this unit, you will be able to assess the use of lay people in determining the fate of a suspect and evaluate the criminal trial process from crime scene to courtroom.

4) Crime and Punishment

Through this unit, you will learn about the criminal justice system in England and Wales and how it operates to achieve social control. You will have gained an understanding of the organisations which are part of our system of social control and their effectiveness in achieving their objectives. As such, you will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the process of social control in delivering policy in different contexts.

Assessment comprises of two internally assessed units (unit 1 and unit 3) and two externally examined units (unit 2 and unit 4).

Trips and other costs:

- To be confirmed

Career and further study:

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology.