

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.

Criminology Curriculum Overview Year 13

Criminology - Year 13 Unit 3 - Crime Scene to Courtroom

| What are we learning? | What knowledge, understanding and skills will we gain? | Evaluation and assessment methods | Implementation | What additional resources are available? |
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| <p>Crime Scene to Courtroom</p> | <p>Knowledge: Understand the process of criminal investigations; to be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the role of personnel involved in criminal investigations, to assess the usefulness of investigative techniques in criminal investigations, to explain how evidence is processed and to examine the rights of individuals in criminal investigations. Understand the process for prosecution of suspects; to be able to explain the requirements of the CPS for the prosecution of suspects, to describe the trial processes, to understand the rules in relation to the use of evidence in criminal cases, assess key influences affecting the outcomes of criminal cases and to discuss the use of laypeople in criminal cases. Be able to review criminal cases; to be able to examine information for validity and to draw conclusions from information.</p> <p>Understanding: Students will understand the process of criminal investigations they will be able to evaluate how effective personnel involved in the investigations are. Students will be able to explain how evidence is processed and will be able to examine what rights individuals have during a criminal investigation. Students will understand the process for prosecution of suspects, they will be able to discuss influences on the outcomes of a criminal trial and the outline the role of laypeople with a detailed evaluation on juries and magistrates.</p> <p>Skills: Students will gain skills in research, understanding and learning subject specific terminology, the ability to evaluation campaigns and data, to summarise information into key points and to reference case studies to support their work for their Controlled Assessment.</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 role of laypeople in criminal proceedings.</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 complete their Controlled Assessment.</p> | <p>Knowledge of the differences between crime and deviance.</p> <p>Skills required for the Controlled Assessment, including note taking and detailed examples.</p> <p>This use of cases studies to support points being made.</p> | <p>Criminology textbook WJEC.</p> |

Criminology - Year 12 Unit 4 - Crime and Punishment

| What are we learning? | What knowledge, understanding and skills will we gain? | Evaluation and assessment methods | Implementation | What additional resources are available? |
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| <p>Crime and Punishment</p> | <p>Knowledge: Understand the criminal justice system in England and Wales; to be able to describe the process for law making, the organisation of the criminal justice system in England and Wales and to describe models of criminal justice. Understand the role of punishment in a criminal justice system; to be able to explain forms of social control, to discuss the aims of punishment and to assess how forms of punishment meet the aims of punishment. Understand measures used in social control; to be able to explain the role of agencies in social control, the contribution of agencies to achieving social control, to examine the limitations of agencies in achieving social control and evaluate the effectiveness of agencies in achieving social control.</p> <p>Understanding: Students will understand the criminal justice system in England and Wales, they will be able to explain the process of law making and the organisation of the criminal justice system. Students will be able to explain the aims of punishment, they will be able to assess whether the types of punishment meet the aims. Students will be able to explain the agencies in social control, they will be able to discuss both the limitations of this and how effective they are in achieving their aims.</p> <p>Skills: Students will gain skills in research, understanding and learning subject specific terminology, 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 punishment in England and Wales.</p> <p>An ability to understand and evaluate measures used in social control.</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 the court structure and punishments available.</p> <p>Students will build on their understanding of deviant and criminal behaviour from Unit 1.</p> | <p>Criminology textbook WJEC.</p> |

