



Overview:

How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? How do we explain why people commit crime? What makes someone a serial killer or abusive to their families? These are all questions you will explore on the WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology. With a focus on applied learning, you will gain the understanding to evaluate the impact of criminological theories on policy making.

This qualification combines 50% controlled assessments and 50% external exams, allowing you to develop valuable skills while exploring intriguing topics.

Year 1 (Certificate): You will explore how criminality is defined over time and between cultures. You will study biological, sociological, and individualistic theories of why crime happens and apply them to real life scenarios. Media representations of criminals and campaigns to elicit change are having increasing impact on public perceptions of crime.

Year 2 (Diploma): You will track criminal processes from crime scene to courtroom, examining the factors which influence the fate of criminal suspects. You will look at the personnel involved in criminal investigations and the techniques that are used, including forensics, offender profiling, and surveillance. You will study the criminal justice system and evaluate the aims of using different forms of punishment to tackle crime.

Expectations:

Students will be expected to purchase core texts that will cover their study but additional reading and research is also expected.

Students can expect to engage in lively whole class discussions and should be prepared to have their view challenged as well as challenging the viewpoints of others. Daily reading of national press is essential as well as keeping up to date with latest developments in policing and policy. This qualification would support learners' progression from any study at Level 2, particularly GCSEs in Sociology and Humanities.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:

A trip to the law courts in London; opportunities to listen to speakers both inside and outside of school; student conferences.

Career Pathways:

The Level 3 Diploma in Criminology has elements of psychology, law and sociology that complement studies in humanities and some sciences. The main purpose of the qualification is to support access to Higher Education degree courses, such as Criminology, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Psychology and Sociology, and Criminology with Law. The course makes the following degrees particularly accessible:

- BA Criminology
- BA Criminology and Criminal Justice
- BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
- LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
- BA (Hons) Criminology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology
- BSc Criminology with Law

Alternatively, the qualification allows students to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g.

The National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service

Good combinations of other subjects to study with History:

Sociology, Psychology, History, Geography, Philosophy and Ethics