

Criminology

Exam Board: WJEC

This programme of study is designed for students who aspire for a career within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology. An understanding of crime is central to any of these careers and this course includes elements of law, psychology and sociology, thus it complements studies in humanities. It is an Applied General qualification. This means it is designed primarily to support learners progressing to university through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system. The qualification would support learners' progression from any study at Level 2, particularly GCSEs in Sociology, Law, Psychology, History and Humanities.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- A minimum of 6 A* to C grades at GCSE with a grade **B** or above in English. If you have any queries, please contact Miss M Murphy (Head of Department).

Unit	Unit Title	Assessment
1	Changing Awareness of Crime Explore different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported	Internal: controlled assessment
2	Criminological Theories Explore why people commit crime, from a biological, psychological and sociological perspective	External assessment
3	Crime Scene to Courtroom In-depth exploration of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Learning to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases	Internal: controlled assessment
4	Crime and Punishment Applying our awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court. Evaluating the effectiveness of social control agencies to deliver criminal justice policy.	External assessment

Course Structure

Each unit has an applied purpose that demands learning related to authentic case studies, such as Amanda Knox, Stephen Lawrence, Barry George and Becky Watts. An important element that filters through each unit is the encouragement of learners to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society and the environment.

The applied purpose in each unit will enable learners to develop:

- Skills required for independent learning and development
- A range of generic and transferable skills
- The ability to solve problems
- The skills of project based research, development and presentation

The WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is mainly used to support access to higher education degree courses, such as:

- BSc Criminology
- 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 learners 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.

In addition to the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology, there is also the WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology. This is a smaller qualification with similar characteristics, including two of the same units. Learners must complete ALL units.