



Criminology - Course Information

Exam board - WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology

What is Criminology?

Criminology is the study of crime, criminal behaviour, and how society responds to crime. It explores why people commit crime, how the criminal justice system operates, and what can be done to prevent offending.

What does the course involve?

- Investigating different types of crime and how they are portrayed in the media.
- Understanding why people commit crimes using psychological and sociological theories.
- Exploring how laws are created, applied, and enforced in society.
- Learning how criminal cases are investigated and prosecuted through the criminal justice process.
- Developing research, analytical, and evaluation skills through practical tasks and written assessments.

Entry Requirements: Grade 4 in Maths and English

What themes are studied and how is it assessed?

The course is made up of four mandatory units, studied over two years.

It is assessed through a mix of controlled assessments (coursework) and external exams, allowing students to apply knowledge to realistic scenarios.

Year 12

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime (Internal Assessment)

Unit 2: Criminological Theories (External Exam)

Year 13

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom (Internal Assessment)

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment (External Exam)

What are lessons like?

Lessons are active and engaging, combining discussion, debate, and group work with independent research. Students explore real-life case studies, analyse news reports, and examine criminal investigations and trials. There is a strong focus on applying theory to real-world examples and developing evaluative writing skills.

Where can criminology take you?

Criminology provides an excellent foundation for further study and a wide range of careers related to crime, justice, and social policy. Career opportunities include: Police service or probation work, legal professions and court administration, forensic investigation, prison and rehabilitation services, social work and youth offending teams and crime analysis and research. Criminology is ideal for students who want to understand the causes and consequences of crime and how society can respond effectively and fairly.

For more information about the course, please see Miss Mcfarlane