

Applied Diploma in Criminology

Course Outline

Would you like to learn about the workings of our criminal justice system, bringing the accused to court, criminal theories and social control? Criminology offers a captivating insight into the world of crime, the causes of crime and how to effectively prevent it.

Criminology is the study of why individuals commit crimes. You will gain an understanding of why a person commits a crime and of strategies we can develop to control crime or rehabilitate a criminal. You will find out how crime reporting in the media affects the public perception of criminality and you will explore the social constructions, theories and causes of criminality and how these lead to changes in policy.

You will examine the process of criminal investigations, studying the prosecution of suspects and learning how to review criminal cases; this supports your learning of the different processes in the criminal justice system and the role of punishment and social control measures in England and Wales.

This course is equivalent to one A-Level.

Course Requirements

Students embarking on this course are expected to have a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

Course Content & Assessment

The course is composed of 4 units each worth 25% of the overall grade.

Unit 1 - Changing Awareness of Crime - *controlled assessment*

Subject areas covered: Different types of crime; How we can study the amount of crime being committed; Why are certain crimes not reported?; How does the media represent certain crimes?; Learn about examples of campaigns that have changed the law; How effective campaigns are in changing the law; Students design their own campaign.

Unit 2 - Criminological Theories - *90 minute external exam*

Subject areas covered: How do we define crime, what is not crime?; How does our idea of crime change over time and between cultures?; Criminological theories - how useful are these explanations for explaining crimes?; What policies are in place to prevent/reduce crime?

Unit 3 - Crime Scene to Courtroom - *controlled assessment*

Subject areas covered: Who is involved in criminal investigations?; How are investigations carried out?; How is evidence processed?; What rights do individuals have?; What is the criminal justice process?; What factors affect criminal trials?

Unit 4 - Crime and Punishment - *90 minute external exam*

Subject areas covered: How are laws made?; How is the criminal justice system organised?; How do we control people's behaviour?; How do we punish people if they commit a crime?; How effective is our system of punishment?

Progression

The course introduces a range of degree courses and careers and is ideal for students who would like to study Criminology, Law, Politics, Social Policy or Sociology at University.

It is also relevant for students who have an interest in any role within the criminal justice system, such as in the Police Force, Prison Officer, Probation Officer or Crime Scene Investigator.