



# Criminology

## Subject to Change

Course Leader: **Ms S Toulson**

### Entry requirements

- Grade 5 or above in English
- A curiosity to answer the following questions:  
How does our society decide which behaviour is criminal?  
What different types of crime take place in society?  
Why do people commit crimes?  
What happens to people who commit crimes?  
How do we punish and/or rehabilitate criminals?  
What processes are involved in the criminal justice system from the crime scene to the courtroom?
- You will need to be well-organised, good time management and the ability to complete extended written responses accurately and coherently.

### Why choose this course?

Criminology is an applied general qualification primarily designed to support learners progressing to university; however, much of the course is vocationally relevant, offering opportunities to learn from practical activities and the expertise of professionals currently working in criminology.

It offers exciting and interesting learning experiences in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system. If you are fascinated by the workings of crime and punishment, this course could be for you!

### Web Links

[Level 3 Criminology \(wjec.co.uk\)](http://wjec.co.uk)

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What does the course involve?

**Year 1**

***Unit 1—Changing awareness of crime (internal assessment 8 hour controlled assessment, 25% weighting).***

You will explore different types of crime and public perceptions of crime, gaining an understanding of why some crimes go unreported to the police and media.

***Unit 2—Criminological theories (external assessment, 25% weighting).***

You will explore a series of criminological theories (such as Sheldon's approach in Biology, Bandura's concepts in Psychology, and Marxist ideas in Sociology). This allows you to gain an understand of why people commit crimes.

**Year 2**

***Unit 3— Crime scene to courtroom (internal assessment, 8 hour controlled assessment 25% weighting)***

You will foster a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system and you will develop the skills needed to examine criminal cases and review verdicts. You will look at the roles of personnel and the processes involved from the moment the crime takes place until the verdict itself is passed.

***Unit 4—Crime and punishment (external assessment, 25% weighting)***

You will apply your knowledge of criminological theories to understand how and why we use punishment within the criminal justice system in order to achieve social control. You will learn to evaluate the effectiveness of social control agencies, such as prisons, in achieving their aims.

**Progression**

The qualification would support learners' to access qualifications to support access to higher education degree courses such as: Criminology, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Law with Criminology, Criminology & Psychology, Criminology & Sociology and Psychology with Sociology.

**Future career paths**

Criminology can open the door to an array of career paths including the police force or in police support roles, the field of forensic psychology, probation work and the prison services.