What is the course about?

Criminology is the study of crime and criminals. This applied qualification will give you the opportunity to study different types of crime, why people commit crime, how the criminal justice sector works and how policies can be implemented to try and reduce crime.

Is this course suitable for me?

Are you interested in finding out:
- What types of crime take place in our society
- How we decide what behaviour is criminal
- What happens to those who commit a crime
- How and why we punish people
- Differences between criminal behaviour and deviance
- What organisations we have in our society to control criminality

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Criminology uses a variety of skills from English, Maths and Science, therefore it is essential that you have good grades in these subjects at GCSE. You do not need to have studied Criminology before, although if you have, you can use the knowledge you have gained as a foundation to the Diploma material.

How can Criminology Level 3 Diploma develop my full range of skills?

During the Level 3 Diploma course you will:
- Extend your independent research skills
- Learn how to use evidence from research to support your arguments
- Develop your ability to explain your point of view fluently
- Develop your analytical and evaluative skills
Course content

Year 12 (WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology QAN 601/6249/1)

Unit 1 Changing Awareness of Crime
Learners develop an understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported. There is an emphasis on why campaigns for change are important in changing the law / policy.

Unit 2 Criminological Theories
Enables learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.

Year 13 (WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology QAN 601/6248/X)

Unit 3 Crime Scene to Courtroom
Provides learners with an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict.

Unit 4 Crime and Punishment
Learners apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

How will the course be taught?

You will use textbooks and notes as a foundation, but we will build on this by looking at current research and case studies.
You will be encouraged to bring in relevant news stories for discussion, and we will use documentary and film to deepen our understanding of the topics covered.
At times you will work in groups, pairs and independently to prepare written work and presentation.
You will be encouraged to use ICT to support your learning. A lot of lessons will be based around independent research tasks. You are expected to extend this research outside lessons and in your own time as homework.

Assessment

Unit 1 and Unit 3 are assessed internally through controlled assessment.
8 hours for each unit (50%)

Unit 2 and Unit 4 are assessed externally through exam (50%)

Possible careers

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, including police officers, probation and prison officers, and social workers.
With their critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, criminology graduates are also attractive to employers in areas such as social research and politics.

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