



# CRIMINOLOGY

COURSE GUIDE 2019



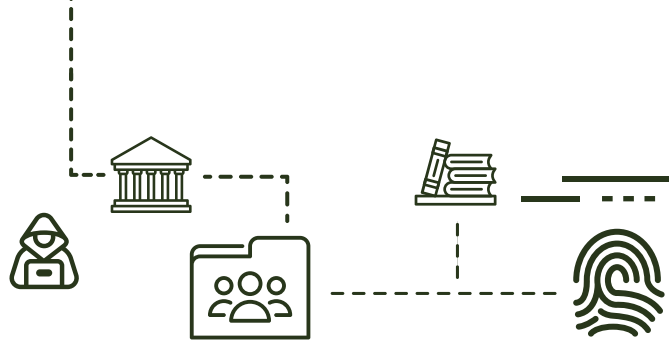
For centuries the death penalty, often accompanied by barbarous refinements, has been trying to hold crime in check; yet crime persists. Why? Because the instincts that are warring in man are not, as the law claims, constant forces in a state of equilibrium.

ALBERT CAMUS

# Criminology

Level 3

Exam Board: WJEC



## What is Criminology?

Criminology is an exciting subject which will allow you to understand crime and deviance in detail. You will focus on the impact that crime and criminal behaviour has on societies and explore how criminal behaviour can be explained.

Questions such as 'why do people commit crime?', 'how should we punish offenders?' and 'what is the role of the criminal justice system?' will be addressed throughout the two year course.

## What will I study?

You will complete the following units:

### Unit 1: Changing awareness of crime

Knowing about the wide range of different crimes and the reasons people have for not reporting such crimes, will provide an understanding of the complexity of behaviours and the social implications of such crimes and criminality. At the end of this unit, you will have gained the skills to differentiate between myth and reality when it comes to crime and to recognise that common representations may be misleading and inaccurate.

### Unit 2: Criminological theories

Knowing about the different types of crime and the criminological approaches to theory will give you a sharper insight into the kind of thinking used by experts and politicians to explain crime and criminality. Public law makers are informed by theory and apply these theories to their own solutions to the problem of crime. By undertaking this unit, you will learn to support, challenge and evaluate expert opinion and be able to support your ideas with reliable and factual evidence.

### Unit 3: Crime scene to courtroom

The criminal trial process involves many different people and agencies. Learning about the roles of these will give you a clearer insight into what happens once a crime is detected and the process that leads to either a guilty or non-guilty verdict. There are strict rules as to how evidence is collected from a crime scene and also strict rules governing the giving of evidence in court. Learning about these rules will allow you to review the trial process and assess whether the aims of the criminal justice system have been met. By undertaking this unit, you will be able to assess the use of lay people in determining the fate of a suspect and evaluate the criminal trial process from crime scene to courtroom.

### Unit 4: Crime scene and punishment

Most people in our society are law-abiding and unwilling to break laws. Law-breaking is frequently of the petty variety, so serious crime and repeat offending is often restricted to a few people who cannot or will not abide by the rules that most of us consider to be so important. Society has had to develop a complex system of mechanisms, processes and organisations to ensure that people do not break the law. If they do commit crime, society needs to be protected from their behaviour. These social institutions each have different mechanisms, ideologies and policies. You will learn something of their variety, how they work and their effectiveness in preventing and protecting us from criminality.

## How will studying Criminology benefit me?

Studying Criminology will develop your understanding of the different aspects of crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance. You will develop your essay writing, time management and organisational skills throughout the course.

## What are the entry requirements for this course?

You will need at least a **grade 4 in GCSE English Language**.

## How will I be assessed?

The course includes a combination of external exams and controlled assessments.

## Where does this course lead?

There are many progression routes for which a qualification in Criminology would be useful due to the skills you will develop. Specific career paths include: Police Officer, Prison Officer, Probation Officer, Social Worker, Youth Worker and many more.



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