



St Benedict's
Sixth Form

Level 3 Criminology Transition Pack



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Why study Criminology?

Crime is a prevalent issue in society, it impacts us all in different ways and as a collective we are fascinated by why people commit crime. The study of criminology combines a wide range of subjects such as criminal psychology, justice, social issues, law, and criminal investigation.



An aspect of criminology that students particularly enjoy is the 'case study approach', this is where real criminal cases are examined, and criminological concepts can be applied. For example, in the case of Fred West we examine what may have led him to murder at least 12 young women. We will look at the devastating case of 15 year old Kristy Bamu who was accused of witchcraft and murdered by his family in 2010; in this case we focus on how cultural differences can impact reasons for killing, and reasons why a crime like this can go unreported. A final example is how the tragic murder of Sarah Payne lead to a positive change in the law, when her parents created 'Sarah's Law' which keeps the community safer from child sexual offenders.

It is the combination of real stories and crimes, raising real and relevant issues that makes criminology an engaging, yet challenging subject to study. Studying criminology is about gaining an understanding of the key criminological theories for why people commit crime, and how society deals with and punishes offenders. This equips you with a wide range of skills and knowledge which can be transferred to a range of different disciplines.

The course

WJEC Criminology comprises of 4 units over 2 years. In Year 12 you will study 2 units and will receive a **Certificate** qualification (equivalent to half an A level), in Year 13 you will study 2 more units and this together with your Certificate will equal a **Diploma** qualification this is equivalent to one A level. Each year you will sit one exam in summer, and one controlled assessment which is an open book format.

Topics

These are *some* of the subtopics covered within the four main units:

- Changing awareness of crime – types of crime, why crime goes unreported, media impact, campaigns for change
- Criminological theories – crime and deviance, biological theories, sociological theories, theories in policy changes
- Crime scene to court room – criminal investigations, techniques, trial process, influences affecting outcomes of criminal cases
- Crime and Punishment – how laws are made, theories of criminal justice, sentencing offenders, social control

Progression

Some potential career options for criminology students:

Scene of Crime Officer, Police Detective, Criminal Intelligence Analysis, Prison Officer, Court Reporter, Probation Officer, Victim Support, Young Offender Support, Social Work, Counselling, Teaching, Researcher.



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Skills

Studying criminology at this level and/or higher study allow you to develop skills such as: research, analysis, problem solving, reasoning, evaluation, and critical thinking.

Resources

Want to get a head start for September? Have a look at these resources. You do not need to purchase anything now, though it is highly recommended that you do purchase a textbook as we will refer to this in lessons.

Textbooks	
	<p>The WJEC approved textbook</p> <p>Author: Carole A Henderson Publisher: Illuminate Publishing Price: £26 Edition: 2021</p> <p>This book covers all 4 units for the two years of study. You can buy directly from the publisher or Amazon</p>
	<p>Additionally, Illuminate Publishing offer a revision guide for the two exam units and the two controlled assessment units.</p> <p>Authors: Carole A Henderson & Laura Neasham Publisher: Illuminate Publishing Price: £15 Edition: 2019</p> <p>You can buy this directly from the publisher or on Amazon</p>
Websites	
<p>www.police.uk</p>	<p>A great resource for crime statistics. See your local area on the crime map and explore more details</p>
<p>News sources such as:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news</p> <p>https://news.sky.com/uk</p>	<p>Keep up to date on current affairs with news sources. Use a variety of sources to ensure there is no bias.</p> <p>Crime is heavily reported in the news, when you see crime in the news consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What crime has been committed? • If it is an ongoing investigation, do the facts suggest they are guilty? Why? • When a sentence has been given what is it and do you think it is fair? • Considering what you know of the defendant, why do you think they committed this crime?



<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/introduction-crime-and-criminology/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

This free course from the Open University offers a brilliant introductory course for those studying criminology. It is aimed at those studying criminology for the first time.

This is not compulsory but a great activity to complete should you wish to get a head start for September.

Documentaries

Variety of sources:

BBC iPlayer, ITV Player, All 4, Netflix, Youtube

There has been a surge of interest recently in crime documentaries. You may have already watched some such as Making a Murderer, Louis Theroux, Trevor McDonald: Life on Death Row.

Some further examples: The Staircase, Panorama, Abducted in Plain Sight, The Confession Killer, The Disappearance of Madeline McCann, The Keepers, Secret Policeman, Stephen Lawrence: Justice for a Murdered Son.

Fiction: Films & TV

In addition to the many real crime documentaries there are many dramatizations of both real and fictional crime, some examples:

White House Farm, Little Boy Blue, Common, Luther, Line of Duty, Killing Eve, Deadwater Fell, The Pale Horse, Ozark, The Stranger, The Sinner, Law & Order, Mindhunter.

When watching any crime drama or documentary consider the following:

- Why was the crime committed?
- For murders – was the killer born evil or did they become evil?
- Could anything have prevented the crime?
- What punishment did they receive?
- Was this a fair punishment?





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Tasks

Below are two tasks to prepare you for your studies in September. Complete these to the best of your ability in your own words please do not copy and paste from other sources. On this course all work must be in your own words throughout.

Task One: Crime Theories

Reasons for Committing Crime


Make a spider diagram or list of at least 8 different crimes you can think of. Remember to include not just fatal offences like murder, but non-fatal ones such as assault, and property offences such as theft.

Pick **two** of those crimes (try not to pick two that are similar to each other) and explain the reasons someone might commit them.

Crime 1:	Crime 2:

Challenge: a famous case

Research the case of the Yorkshire Ripper – Peter Sutcliffe. Find the key facts about his crimes and his background. Then, consider why he might have committed these crimes.

	Yorkshire Ripper: Peter Sutcliffe Key Facts:	Your Theory:
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Task Two: The Media

Media Impact on Crime

Choose a recent (from the past 5 years) criminal case that has been reported in the media. You might choose a large scale event such as the Manchester Terrorist attack, or a serious but smaller scale offence such as the recent murder of Tashaun Aird.

Your task is to research how this event was reported in the media (TV, radio, news reports online or on TV, local and national coverage, and social media) and explain the way it was reported and what impact this might have on us as a society. Consider the language used, images, the tone of the language, negative and positive views of the crime.

You can present this task however you want but you must cover the points above. Remember to put all work in your own words unless you are quoting what someone has said or the wording in a newspaper or article.