WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma Criminology

(Equivalent to one A Level)

Course Description:

Criminology is the scientific study of crime and criminals. You will gain an understanding of why a person commits a crime, and of strategies we can develop to reduce crime and rehabilitate a criminal. You will also analyse how crime reporting in the media affects the public perception of criminality and explore how different criminological theories have led to changes in policy.

The WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law, history and sociology, consequentially, complimenting a range of A Level courses. It is a two year course and is equivalent to one A level in Criminology, therefore carrying the same UCAS points for university as an A Level qualification (N.B. entry requirements vary considerably across universities therefore you should always check to confirm individual entry requirements for the courses you are interested in).

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Standard entry criteria with Grade 4 in English.

Aims of the Course:

The aim of this course is to foster an interest in and enthusiasm for Criminology, including further study and careers. Regardless of your future interests, this course will support you to build a range of transferable skills including:

- applying theoretical knowledge to real life situations
- making reasoned arguments and ethical judgments
- generating and evaluating evidence
- analysing and interpreting data
- effective report writing
- critical thinking
- independent learning

Future Prospects:

The course can be used to access higher education degree courses including Criminology, Law, Psychology, Sociology to name a few. Alternatively, the qualification can lead to employment opportunities within the criminal justice system, policing, social services, education and research and policy.

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Units

Unit 1 – Changing Awareness of Crime (coursework) **Internal Assessment**

What different types of crime take place in our society? What kinds of crime exist but we know very little about, or are simply not reported to the police and the media? This unit will enable you to demonstrate an understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported. Once you've learned about a variety of methods used by agencies to raise awareness of crime, you will go on to plan a campaign for change in relation to crime, for example - to raise awareness of a hidden crime such as domestic violence against men.

Unit 2 – Criminological Theories (exam) **External Assessment**

How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What makes someone a serial killer, or abusive to their own families? Criminologists have produced theoretical explanations of why people commit crime, but which is the most useful? This unit will allow you to gain an understanding about the different types of crime and the criminological approaches which experts and politicians use to explain crime and propose evidence-based solutions.

Unit 3 – Crime Scene to Courtroom (coursework) **Internal Assessment**

What are the roles of personnel involved when a crime is detected? What investigative techniques are available to investigators to help to identify the culprit? What happens to a suspect once charged by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)? This unit will provide you with an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. You will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

Unit 4 – Crime and Punishment (exam) **External Assessment**

Why do most of us tend to obey the law even when to do so is against our own interests? What social institutions have we developed to ensure that people do obey laws? What happens to those who violate our legal system? Through this unit, you will learn about the criminal justice system in England and Wales and how it operates to achieve social control. You will draw upon your knowledge of the topics previously studied evaluate the effectiveness of criminal justice policy.

Methods of Assessment:

Each unit is worth 25% of your final result graded from Grade A to E.

- 50% of the course is externally assessed by two external exams (Unit 2 & Unit 4)
- 50% of the course is internally assessed by your teachers through the written portfolio of work you produce (Units 1 and 3)