Criminology

Exam Board WJEC
Qualification Level 3 Applied Diploma – equivalent to one A-level
Entry Requirements Grade 5 in English and grade 4 in Maths

Content

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime (internally assessed)
The purpose of this unit is for learners to plan campaigns for change relating to crime.
What different types of crime take place in our society? What kinds of crime exist about which we know very little, or which are simply not reported to the police and the media? How do we explain people's reluctance to come forward about crimes of which they have been the victim? Some crimes which seem inoffensive, such as counterfeiting designer goods, have actually been linked to the funding of more serious crime such as terrorism and people trafficking; so why do people turn a 'blind eye' to these 'mild' crimes? What methods have governments and other agencies used to raise social awareness of these crimes?

Unit 2: Criminological Theories (external examination)
The purpose of this unit is for learners to apply their understanding of the public perceptions of crime and campaigns for change studied in Unit 1 with criminological theories to examine how both are used to set policy.
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 most useful? Are these theories relevant to all types of crime? What can we learn from the strengths and weaknesses of each? How can these theories be applied to real life scenarios and real-life crimes?

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom (internally assessed)
Learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.
What are the roles of personnel involved when a crime is detected? What investigative techniques are available to investigators to help identify the culprit? Do techniques differ depending on the type of crime being investigated? What happens to a suspect once charged by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)? What safeguards are in place to ensure the suspect has a fair trial?

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment (external examination)
The purpose of this unit is for learners to develop skills in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the process of social control in delivering policy in practice.
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? Why do we punish people? How do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality of those who will not abide by the social rules that most of us follow? We spend a great deal of taxpayers' money on social control, so how effective are these organisations in dealing with criminality?

Assessment

Year 12 – controlled assessment in January, exam in May
Year 13 – controlled assessment in January, exam in May

Career Prospects

This qualification can support entry into undergraduate degree programmes in subjects including Criminology, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Criminology and Psychology, Law with Criminology, Criminology and Sociology, Psychology and Sociology and Criminology with Law.

Alternatively, this qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunal Service or the National Offender Management Service.