



Northampton International Academy

Criminology Curriculum Overview



Why Teach Criminology?

Criminology is an extremely popular subject at KS5 in which learners can gain an in-depth understanding of Crime: The way it is perceived and portrayed, the way in which criminal behaviour might be explained and the workings of the UK Criminal Justice System in managing and reducing crime. As part of the Social Sciences, Criminology encompasses elements of Psychology, Sociology and Law and is ideally suited to students who might be considering a career in Criminal Justice, are interested in crime as an area of study, or just as a way of complementing the content in other subjects. Criminology is a Diploma course rather than an A Level, so there is a focus on continual assessment and project-based work alongside some external examinations.

- Understand the workings of the Criminal Justice System (police, courts, prisons etc)
- Understand and appraise a range of explanations for criminal behaviour
- Gain insight into the criminal investigation procedure, from crime-scene-investigation through to criminal trials
- Develop skills in analysis and evaluation
- Decipher fact from fiction by learning how to assess the reliability and validity of information

Learning For Life and Careers

- **Employability Skills** – Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, Presentation, Evaluation, Justification, Communication
- **Linking the curriculum to careers** - The course offers an insight into a number of careers ranging from Police to Law, Forensic Science, Community work and much more
- **Examples of Curriculum Pathways** – Police Officer, Probation Officer, Prison Officer, Lawyer, Journalist, Cyber Security

Skills of Enquiry We Develop



Substantive Knowledge

	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Term 1	Unit 1: Perception of Crime (a) Analysis of different types of crime	Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom (a) Roles and responsibilities in criminal justice
Term 2	Unit 1: Perception of Crime (b) Crime awareness campaigns Internal Assessment Unit 2: Criminological Theories (outline and evaluation sociological, psychological and biological theories)	Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom (cont) (b) Courtroom practice Internal Assessment Unit 4: Crime & Punishment a. Social Control
Term 3	Unit 2: Criminological Theories (cont) (application of theories to policy) External Assessment	Unit 4: Crime & Punishment (cont) (b) Punishment of offenders External Assessment



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Criminology Curriculum Map



APPLICATION OF DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE

	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Asking Questions	Students can identify the key questions to be asked in order to fully analyse a type of crime	Students can identify the questions to be asked and answered in conducting a criminal investigation
Making Predictions	Students can apply theory predict criminal behaviour based on biological, psychological, sociological and physiological factors	Students can apply theory to predict the outcomes of investigations, legal proceedings and punitive measures
Setting Up Tests	Students can test the effectiveness of campaigning using a range of measures	Students can set up simple forensic and investigative tests
Observing & Measuring	Students can conduct simple investigations in order to measure a phenomenon; students can identify and critique a range of measures of criminality	Students can observe legal proceedings – investigations, crime scenes, courtroom cases – and measure the effectiveness and outcomes.
Recording Data	Students can analyse and apply recorded data from experiments and studies into crime	Students can interpret and apply data recorded in criminal investigations
Evaluating	Students can evaluate a range of biological, sociological and psychology theories into criminality, and the usefulness of crime reduction measures stemming from these	Students can evaluate the effectiveness of all layers of the criminal justice system, and use this evaluation to make recommendations