**WJEC Diploma** **Criminology**

**Introduction – an outline of the course**

Welcome to WJEC Diploma Criminology. During your time at Sixth Form, you will study a range of criminological theories, develop an understanding of different types of crime and the criminal justice system, the influences on perceptions of crime and what causes criminal behaviour. This is a two-year course. Units 1 and 2 completed in the first year comprise an 8-hour Controlled Assessment plus a formal examination. This is replicated in Year 2 with Units 3 and 4. You must complete and pass all units to gain the Diploma. The diploma is equivalent to A level and is worth the same number of UCAS points.

**What skills will you develop and learn?**

Each Unit has an applied element that will allow students to develop the following:

* skills required for independent learning and development
* a range of generic and transferable skills
* the ability to solve problems
* the skills of project-based research, development, and presentation
* the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment
* the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts

**What will we be studying in the first half term?**

In September you will start by looking at Unit 1, the changing awareness of crime that will serve as a foundation to build your knowledge and skills required to complete the Criminology course. knowledge and skills.

We will then begin to look at Unit 2 during Year 12, which enables learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.

**Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime**

In this unit, learners develop an understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported. Knowing about the wide range of different crimes and the reasons people have for not reporting such crimes provides an understanding of the complexity of behaviours and the social implications of such crimes and criminality. Learners examine campaigns for change and are given the opportunity to plan and design their own campaign for change relating to an unreported crime in an unseen brief.

* *Internally assessed coursework (worth 50% of Year 12)*

**Example assessment task**

Shopkeepers have been complaining about a perceived increase in shoplifting and bad behaviour at a local shopping centre. They have associated it with a small group of youths who hang around in hooded tops on a Saturday.

Learners will work with the security guards and the police to investigate the truth or otherwise of the traders’ perception. Following an analysis of their findings, they plan a campaign to alert one or more relevant groups to change attitudes/perceptions/behaviours.

**Unit 2: Criminological Theories**

This unit enables learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1. Learners explore the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance and the theories behind why people commit crime.

* *Examination (worth 50% of Year 12)*
* *90 min exam. 3 questions. 75 marks.*
* *Short and extended questions with some problem-solving scenario questions*

**What can I do that will help me prepare for WJEC Diploma Criminology?**

You may wish to use some of your summer to carry out some background reading and preparation. A recommended reading and watching list have been included in the summer gap task booklet which you must complete. These resources will enable you to make links between crimes and the types of punishments in different societal contexts.

You may want to look at the specification for more detail about these topics. You can find this at: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/21xjkr24/wjec-applied-diploma-in-criminology-spec-e-03-06-2020.pdf>.

You may want to make notes on any recent newspaper articles that have drawn your attention, these can then be further researched and discussed in the lessons based on crime and punishment.

**Summer Gap Task**

The best way to prepare for Criminology is to complete the summer gap task that has been set.

If you read the booklet and complete the tasks over the summer, then you will be using the skills that you have developed during your GCSEs. It is easy to let these skills lapse which will make the start of your A levels more difficult, because you will be trying to remember what you did at GCSE and learn new knowledge and skills.

[On the school website](https://www.guiseleyschool.org.uk/), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the Criminology task which is a PDF booklet.

The booklet has been produced by the exam board (WJEC) that you will be studying. In this transition pack there are 5 tasks that we would like you to complete, these will be of benefit to you when you start the course*.* It starts with a course overview, expectations of the course, a reading/watching list, and a range of research tasks to help support you with each of the units. Many of these tasks are research based, it may appear to be a lot of work, but it won’t take you long to complete this and you will be rewarded by having a better understanding of the course.

The tasks are designed to help you remember what you learnt at GCSE and give you exercise to practice and develop these skills.

You don’t have to complete this work in one go. Why not wait until you have a rainy day?

We are really looking forward to seeing you in September and working with you so that you achieve your goals and aspirations.