

A Level/BTEC Subject Year 12 Transition Work

Why study A Level/BTEC Subject?

Criminology is a great subject that will develop your skills in critical thinking, reasoning and problem solving. Criminology allows you to investigate human behaviour, how humans interact with the societies they live in, and why certain actions are deemed right or wrong by society.

Studying Criminology via the WJEC Applied Diploma brings the benefit of a consistent focus on applying learning to real cases and analyse the impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society and the environment. You will also complete assignments and examinations that are designed to prepare you for a variety of professional or vocational pathways after Sixth Form, whether that is in the Criminology or another area.

A-Level/BTEC Subject at a glance

You will study the following content over the 2 years:

- **Unit 1 – Changing awareness of Crime** (Internally assessed Controlled assessment in Dec/Jan 2025/26) – 25%.

This unit will enable the learner to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported.

- **Unit 2 – Criminological Theories** (External exam in May/June 2026) – 25%.

This unit will allow learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.

- **Unit 3 – Crime scene to courtroom** (controlled assessment 2027) –25%.

This unit provides an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

- **Unit 4 – Crime & Punishment** (External exam in summer 2027) – 25%.

In this unit learners will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

The purpose of the transition work

This work will introduce some of the processes used to analyse and apply cases based on understanding different aspects of criminology. The first thing you will be doing when you start in September will be to 'Analyse different types of crime'. The below tasks have been designed to prepare you for the course.

This will develop the key skills needed for both the exam and coursework units you will study in Year 12 and introduce the new ways of working needed for Criminology as it is a new subject.



You need to bring your completed work to the first Criminology lesson in September.

Transition tasks:

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime – Task 1

Unit 1 covers different types of crimes and how they are viewed by the police and society.

Find a definition and an example for each of these types of crime and complete the table below:

Type of crime	Definition	Case Example
White collar crime	Crimes committed by professional people with high social status in the course of their occupations for financial gain. For example, fraud, tax evasion, embezzlement.	Jordan Belford AKA the Wolf of Wall Street. Crimes: fraud; manipulation of the stock market
Moral crime		
State crime		
Technological crime		
Hate crime		
Honour crime		
Domestic abuse		



Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime – Task 2

Many people learn about the fear and fascination of crime from various media sources, but the media isn't always a reliable source of information. Some media portrayals of crime are accurate, but the media has also been criticised for glamourising or trivialising crime.

Have you watched any of these films/TV shows?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breaking Bad | <input type="checkbox"/> John Wick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peaky Blinders | <input type="checkbox"/> Wolf of Wall Street |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> The Godfather |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CSI | <input type="checkbox"/> Pulp Fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Gentlemen | <input type="checkbox"/> Knives Out |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Midsummer Murders | <input type="checkbox"/> James Bond |

Task – Pick a film or TV show that includes crime and explain how crime is represented in that media. You could use one of the examples above or another film/TV show that you have watched.

Name of film/TV show _____

Description of how crime is portrayed

Do you think this is a realistic representation? Explain your answer



Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime – Task 3

Some types of crime lack public awareness, leading to individuals, groups and even the media campaigning to make a change. Looking at these you will plan a campaign for change relating to specific crime.

Research two campaigns that were introduced due to criminal acts. Complete the following sections to gain a full understanding of each campaign. This information will be used in learning outcome 2 of your Unit 1 assessment.

Sarah Payne – 'Name and Shame' Campaign

Points to research	Information
Why did the campaign start?	
Who was involved in the campaign?	
Main aims of the campaign?	
Who was the campaign aimed at?	
What different ways was the campaign promoted?	
What happened as a result of this campaign?	

LITERACY TASK



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There are many different jobs within the criminal justice system. For each of the following job roles prepare a case file. This should include:

- a detailed description of what the job entails,
- qualification routes, salaries,
- some evaluation of the job: How do they assist in catching/punishing/rehabilitating offenders? In what ways are they limited (by funding, availability, expertise).

You will need to do some **research** for this and include some **good quality description** and **evaluation**.

- Police officer:
- Response Officer
- Crime Scene Investigator
- Pathologist
- Probation Officer

Wider reading:

News + Media

You should be keeping up to date with important legal stories in the news. Recommended free sources for this are:

<https://www.theguardian.com/law> - British newspaper (free) with stories about the law

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cldy2dmy748t> - BBC News crime section

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime> - British newspaper (free) crime section

<https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-prison-service>

<https://www.met.police.uk>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/candp/>

Social Media

The Secret Barrister - Follow @Barrister Secret on Twitter/X. Britain's best known source of information about behind the scenes in courtrooms and the legal system. If you are not a Twitter/X user then most of the content is available on <https://thesecretbarrister.com/>

Books

Corporate Crime – Peter Yeager

Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice – Nicola Grove



Wider viewing:

The Godfather

Goodfellas

Shawshank Redemption

The Green Mile

The Departed

Crime and Punishment (History of the Law) YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn1gdZMLtrk>

The Briefs YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWTcg8Ye6fI>

HARDtalk interview with Lady Hale YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1VozJR_jC8&t=414s



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