

A-LEVEL CRIMINOLOGY

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY AT A-LEVEL?

Studying A-Level Criminology offers students a deeper understanding of crime, its causes, and the impact on society, helping them develop critical thinking and analytical skills. It allows students to explore fascinating subjects such as criminal behaviour, the criminal justice system, and how laws are enforced, preparing them for a range of careers in law, policing, social work or forensic psychology. Criminology also enhances awareness of social justice issues, encouraging students to question societal norms and explore solutions to crime-related problems. This subject combines elements of sociology, psychology, and law, making it both engaging and versatile for future academic or career paths.

TOPICS STUDIED

TOPIC 1

Changing Awareness of Crime

Understanding of different types of crime, how they are perceived by the public, and why some crimes go unreported.

TOPIC 2

Criminological Theories

Studying different theories that explain why people commit crimes such as biological, psychology and sociological explanations of criminal behaviour.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

The course is typically assessed through a combination of coursework and exams. Two units are assessed through internal coursework and two through external examinations:

Coursework

- Criminological theories, crime prevention and the criminal justice system.
- Assignments and projects that require research, analysis and written work.

External Examinations

- Formal written exams
- Short and long-answer questions that evaluate your ability to apply criminological concepts to real-world scenarios.



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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE English (Language/Literature)

CAREER PATHWAYS

A-Level Criminology opens up a range of career pathways, especially in fields related to crime, justice and social services. Here are some potential career options for students who study criminology:

1. Law Enforcement: Many criminology students pursue careers in policing, working as police officers, detectives, or crime scene investigators.
2. Criminal Justice System: Roles such as a probation officer, prison officer, or youth offending officer involve working directly with offenders to support rehabilitation and reduce reoffending.
3. Legal Sector: Criminology can be a stepping stone to careers in law, such as solicitor, barrister or legal researcher, especially for those who go on to study law at university.
4. Social Work and Rehabilitation: Criminology students may work as social workers, particularly with vulnerable populations or offenders, or as substance misuse counsellors, helping individuals with addiction or behavioural problems.
5. Criminal Psychology: Those interested in the psychological side of crime can pursue careers in criminal psychology or forensic psychology, assisting law enforcement with offender profiling and understanding criminal behaviour.
6. Research and Academia: Some criminology students move into academic roles, conducting research on crime trends, policy development, and criminal justice reform, or teaching criminology.
7. Government and Policy Making:
8. Criminology graduates can work in government organisations (NGOs), helping to shape criminal justice systems

IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Yes, if you're interested in any of the above topics and/or careers, A-Level Criminology is a great introduction and opportunity for further learning in the Crime and Law industry. It offers a broad understanding of its topic so has great scope, particularly if you're not sure which particular area you want to pursue further.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Mr Brookes, Head of Sixth Form, sbrookes@lighthall.co.uk

READING LIST :

- A Few Kind Words and a Loaded Gun – Razor Smith
- Under the Wig – William Clegg QC
- Chris Atkins - A bit of a Stretch
- Criminology – Tim Newburn

