

# Statement of Purpose

## WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology

### Overview

*Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? 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 happens to those who commit a crime? Why and how do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality?*

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, including police officers, probation and prison officers, and social workers. With their critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, criminology graduates are also attractive to employers outside the criminal justice sector in areas such as social research and politics.

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology has been designed to provide learners with underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and training. The Certificate is designed to complement study in related subjects such as A level Sociology, Law and Psychology, and provide an insight into the subject area with a view to further study or training in related subjects. It offers exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for 16-19 year-old learners and adult learners through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system.

Although there are no formal entry requirements, the qualification supports progression from Level 2, particularly GCSEs in Sociology, Law, Psychology, Citizenship, History and Humanities. The qualification is generally delivered over two years and is likely to be studied in schools or colleges alongside GCE A Levels and other Level 3 vocational qualifications. Learners interested in this qualification may also be interested in the WJEC GCE in Law and the WJEC Extended Project Qualification.

### Qualification structure and content

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology is made up of two mandatory units:

WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology			
Unit Number	Unit Title	Assessment	GLH
1	Changing Awareness of Crime	Internal	90
2	Criminological Theories	External	90

In ***Changing Awareness of Crime***, 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.

***Criminological Theories*** 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.

## **Learning experience**

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology is an Applied General Qualification. This means that each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. The applied purpose demands learning related to authentic case studies. It also requires learners to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society and the environment. The applied purpose will also allow learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- 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

All units within the WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology are vocationally relevant to Criminology and the criminal justice sector.

## **Assessment**

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology is assessed through a combination of two written examinations, set and marked by WJEC, and two centre-marked assignments.

## **Progression**

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology has elements of psychology, law and sociology that complement studies in humanities. The main purpose of the qualification is to support access to higher education degree courses, such as:

- BSc Criminology
- BA Criminology
- BA Criminology and Criminal Justice
- BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
- LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
- BA (Hons) Criminology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology
- BSc Criminology with Law

Letters of support have been received from:

- Glyndwr University
- Edge Hill University
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Wiltshire College

Copies of the letters of support for the qualifications are published on the WJEC website: [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk).

The qualification also enables 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 Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service. The Level 3 Certificate in Criminology is also a natural progression route to the Level 3 Diploma in Criminology.

### **Further information**

This qualification has been designed in line with the requirements for Applied General Qualifications in England and as a qualification providing Introductory Vocational Education and Training (IVET) in Wales.

Further information on the qualification's inclusion in 16-18 performance tables and UCAS Tariff Points will be available shortly.

Additional information can be found on the WJEC website: [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk).