

Criminology Curriculum Overview

This overview document details what students will be studying in this subject area over the course of their time with us and the skills and knowledge they will be covering. Students will be formally assessed across the year and their progress and ATL (Attitude to Learning) will be reported home at the end of each term. Assessments will aim to assess the knowledge and skills a student has covered up to that point in their education, including the curriculum covered in the previous year/s.

Half term	02.09.25 - 23.10.25	03.11.25 - 19.12.25	05.01.26 - 13.02.26	23.02.26 - 26.03.26	13.04.26 - 22.05.26	01.06.26 - 17.07.26
	Autumn 1 - 8 weeks	Autumn 2 - 7 weeks	Spring 1 - 6 weeks	Spring 2 - 5 weeks	Summer 1 - 5 weeks	Summer 2 - 7 weeks
Year 12	<p><i>During this half term students will begin the content for both Unit 1(internal controlled assessment) and Unit 2 (external exam).</i></p> <p><u>Unit 1 How crime reporting affects the public perception of criminality.</u></p> <p>They will begin Unit 1 by exploring how crime reporting affects the public perception of criminality. They will investigate a range of different crimes from white collar crime to moral crime and will then look at how these crimes can be presented by the media. They will finish off this half term by evaluating the different methods used to collect statistics about crime.</p> <p><u>Unit 2 Comparing crime and deviance and how crime can be socially constructed.</u></p> <p>Unit 2 will begin by students comparing crime and deviance and how crime can be socially constructed. They will delve into the history of</p>	<p><u>Unit 1 How crime reporting affects the public perception of criminality.</u></p> <p>For Unit 1 students will explore a range of campaigns for change. They will look at Sarah's Law, No Knives Better Lives, Make Poverty History and #MeToo among others. They will compare the methods used, the reach of the campaigns and how effective they have been in achieving their aims. This will also give them an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of media used in campaigns for change and what their opinions are on what makes a great campaign.</p> <p><u>Unit 2 Theories of Crime</u></p> <p>In Unit 2 this half term they will dive into the main theories of crime. They will explore biological, individualistic and sociological theories using these to analyse different situations of criminality. They will delve into some of the darkest crimes in UK history and try to uncover why they may have happened.</p>	<p><i>This half term gives students the opportunity to combine their knowledge of crimes and campaigns with their creative and technological skills.</i></p> <p><u>Unit 1 Campaign for Change</u></p> <p>For unit 1 they will be creating their own campaign for change on a topic of their choice. They will be required to design all the materials and justify the methods they have chosen. This will act as a mock so that they can receive feedback and support in preparation for their controlled assessment where they will create a campaign based on the assignment brief.</p> <p><u>Unit 2 Theories of Crime</u></p> <p>Following on from their comparison of criminological theories of crime they will start to look at the strengths and weaknesses of these. To what extent do these explain why individuals commit crime? Do they apply to every crime or every situation? Could there be other factors to consider? They will be able to apply a range of theories to different</p>	<p><u>Unit 1 Controlled Assessment</u></p> <p>This half term will see the completion of all three learning outcomes for their controlled assessment (Unit 1). They will then also need to make sure their notes and folder are prepared to take into the assessment with them. This is essential preparation to be successful so that they do not miss out on any of the required criteria.</p> <p><u>Unit 2 Causes of Policy Change</u></p> <p>In Unit 2 students will begin the final learning outcome which is to understand the causes of policy change. This allows students to gain insight into the reasons why the criminal justice system in the UK and legislation has changed and continues to develop. We will look at historical and current policies, comparing their effectiveness. They will explore eugenics, the death penalty, psychoanalysis and zero tolerance policies among others. They will also consider how changes in the society they live in has influenced this.</p>	<p><u>Unit 1 Controlled Assessment</u></p> <p>During this half term students will complete their first controlled assessment (Unit 1). They will be able to take their notes, hand outs, files etc. into the exam with them. The controlled assessment is 8 hours. The assessment includes a brief - a scenario describing a situation involving a crime. They will be required to complete a set of tasks linked to the brief.</p> <p><u>Unit 2 Revision</u></p> <p>Students will continue working towards their Unit 2 exam. During this half term they will have time to revisit and revise all three learning outcomes. The exam is a traditional exam of 1 hour 30 minutes, set and marked by examiners outside of school. There are three questions each worth 25 marks.</p> <p>Each question is subdivided into part questions which are all based on a stimulus material such as a crime scenario. Students need to be able to apply the knowledge they have learnt to this.</p>	<p><i>Students will begin to study for their final two units of work. This will consist of one controlled assessment - Unit 3 Crime Scene to Courtroom and one external exam - Unit 4 Crime and Punishment.</i></p> <p><u>Unit 3 Personnel involved in criminal investigations and investigative techniques</u></p> <p>In Unit 3 they will begin by evaluating the effectiveness of the roles of personnel involved in criminal investigations and will assess how useful investigative techniques are. They will then go on to explore different forms of evidence and how this evidence is processed.</p> <p><u>Unit 4 Governmental and Judicial Law Making</u></p> <p>In Unit 4 they will explore both governmental and judicial law making processes, how the criminal justice system is organised in England and Wales and how the crime control model and due process model of justice are applied.</p>

	the UK's criminal justice system and uncover how the law has changed over time. In this half term they will also start to explore the different criminological theories and how these go some way to explaining why people commit crimes.		scenarios given which will prepare them for the question styles they will see on their first external exam.			
Half term	02.09.25 - 23.10.25	03.11.25 - 19.12.25	05.01.26 - 13.02.26	23.02.26 - 26.03.26	13.04.26 - 22.05.26	01.06.26 - 17.07.26
	Autumn 1 - 8 weeks	Autumn 2 - 7 weeks	Spring 1 - 6 weeks	Spring 2 - 5 weeks	Summer 1 - 5 weeks	Summer 2 - 7 weeks
Year 13	<p><u>Unit 3 Personnel involved in criminal investigations and investigative techniques</u></p> <p>During this half term for Unit 3 students will examine the rights of investigators in criminal investigations, from arrest to appeal. They will then move on to explore the process for prosecution of suspects. They will need to be able to explain the requirements of the CPS for the prosecution of suspects, describe the trial processes and understand the rules in relation to the use of evidence in criminal cases.</p> <p><u>Unit 4 Governmental and Judicial Law Making</u></p> <p>For Unit 4 students will be exploring the role of punishment in a criminal justice system. They will need to explain forms of social control, discuss the aims of punishment and assess how these punishments meet those aims.</p>	<p><u>Unit 3 Key influences that can impact the outcome of a criminal case</u></p> <p>Students will now move onto assessing the key influences that can impact the outcome of a criminal case. They will analyse real criminal cases to assess what impacted their outcomes. Following this they will explore how laypeople are used in criminal cases including the jury's role and magistrates. At this point they will move onto the final learning outcome where they will be required to review a range of criminal cases for validity. They will consider cases where there have been inquests and miscarriages of justice.</p> <p><u>Unit 4 Different agencies that work together during criminal investigations</u></p> <p>In Unit 4 they will also begin the third learning outcome which focuses on the different agencies that work together during criminal investigations. This includes Police, Probation services, the courts, the CPS and prisons.</p>	<p><u>Unit 3 Controlled Assessment Preparation</u></p> <p>This half term will see the completion of all three learning outcomes for their controlled assessment (Unit 3). They will then also need to make sure their notes and folder are prepared to take into the assessment with them. This is essential preparation to be successful so that they do not miss out on any of the required criteria.</p> <p><u>Unit 4 Different agencies that work together during criminal investigations</u></p> <p>Unit 4 will focus on how the different agencies achieve social control, their effectiveness and any limitations they may encounter and how charities and pressure groups provide support and resources to other agencies. Students will review a range of laws during this topic including Sarah's Law, Clare's Law and the Double Jeopardy Law.</p>	<p><u>Unit 3 Controlled Assessment</u></p> <p>During this half term students will complete their second controlled assessment (Unit 3). They will be able to take their notes, hand outs, files etc. into the exam with them. The controlled assessment is 8 hours. The assessment includes a brief - a scenario describing a situation involving a crime. They will be required to complete a set of tasks linked to the brief.</p> <p><u>Unit 4 Different Methods of Social Control</u></p> <p>In their Unit 4 they will look at a range of different methods of social control used in the UK and in the USA. They will be able to understand how prisons, CCTV, gated lanes and token economies all support social control and what the strengths and weaknesses of these methods are.</p>	<p><u>Unit 4 Revision</u></p> <p>Students will continue working towards their Unit 4 exam. During this half term they will have time to revisit and revise all three learning outcomes. The exam is a traditional exam of 1 hour 30 minutes, set and marked by examiners outside of school. There are three questions each worth 25 marks.</p> <p>Each question is subdivided into part questions which are all based on a stimulus material such as a crime scenario. Students need to be able to apply the knowledge they have learnt to this.</p>	

