

The **WJEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Criminology** is an applied qualification equivalent to two A-Levels. It combines elements of sociology, psychology, law, and criminology to explore crime, criminal behavior, and the workings of the criminal justice system. This course provides a blend of academic study and practical application, preparing students for further education or careers in criminology, law enforcement, and related fields.

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### Key Features

1. **Qualification Level:** Level 3, equivalent to two A-Levels.
  2. **Assessment:**
    - A combination of **internal coursework** and **external examinations**.
    - 50% externally assessed, 50% internally assessed.
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### Content of Study

The qualification consists of **four mandatory units**, each focusing on different aspects of criminology:

#### Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime (Internally assessed)

Explores different perceptions of crime and how to raise public awareness:

- Types of crime, including underreported crimes.
- Influences on perceptions of crime (media, social norms, etc.).
- Strategies to promote change and raise awareness of criminal behavior.

#### Unit 2: Criminological Theories (Externally assessed)

Examines why people commit crimes and the theories behind criminal behavior:

- Biological, sociological, and psychological theories of crime.
- Application of theories to real-life situations.
- Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of criminological theories.

#### Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom (Internally assessed)

Focuses on the process of investigating crime and achieving justice:

- Procedures in criminal investigations, including forensics and evidence collection.
- The role of the criminal justice system in ensuring fairness.
- Analysis of case studies to understand how evidence is used in trials.

#### Unit 4: Crime and Punishment (Externally assessed)

Explores the purpose and effectiveness of punishment in society:

- Different forms of punishment (custodial sentences, fines, etc.).
  - The aims of punishment (rehabilitation, deterrence, etc.).
  - The effectiveness of social control in achieving justice.
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### Skills Developed

- **Critical Thinking:** Analyzing crime trends and evaluating criminal justice policies.

- **Research and Analysis:** Investigating real-world cases and applying criminological theories.
  - **Communication:** Writing reports, presenting findings, and debating social issues.
  - **Problem-Solving:** Identifying challenges in the justice system and proposing solutions.
  - **Application of Knowledge:** Linking theory to practice in real-life criminal justice scenarios.
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### Assessment Overview

1. **Internal Coursework (50%):**
    - Units 1 and 3 are assessed through assignments and practical tasks.
    - Students compile portfolios demonstrating their understanding of key concepts.
  2. **External Examinations (50%):**
    - Units 2 and 4 are assessed through written exams set by WJEC.
    - Exams include scenario-based questions and essay-style responses.
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### Career Pathways

This qualification provides a foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in criminology, law, sociology, psychology, forensic science, or criminal justice.
  2. **Professional Training:** Careers in law enforcement, probation, social work, or forensic investigation.
  3. **Employment:** Roles such as police officer, youth offending officer, prison officer, or roles in community support and rehabilitation.
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### Who Is It For?

- Students interested in understanding crime and its impact on society.
- Those aiming for careers in criminal justice, law enforcement, or social policy.
- Learners who enjoy combining academic study with practical applications of criminology principles.