Bilton School Sixth Form

WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology – Transition Work

Welcome to Criminology!
This summer, you'll complete a series of tasks designed to introduce you to key criminological concepts, famous cases, and real-world applications. These will help you feel confident and prepared for the course in September.

What is Criminology?

Criminology is the study of crime, criminal behaviour, and the criminal justice system. It explores why people commit crimes, how society defines crime, and how we respond to it through law enforcement, punishment, and rehabilitation.

Transition Tasks

Task 1: What is Criminology? (Research & Reflection)

- Research the definition of criminology and how it differs from related fields such as law, sociology, and psychology.
- Write a 200–300 word summary in your own words explaining what criminology is and why it is important.

Task 2: Famous Criminal Case Study

Choose a well-known criminal case, such as:
- The Ted Bundy case
- The James Bulger case
- The case of Harold Shipman
- The Stephen Lawrence case

For your chosen case, research and write a 250-word summary including:
- What happened
- Who was involved
- What laws were broken
- The public and legal response

Task 3: What Causes Crime?

- Research at least two different theories about why people commit crime (e.g. biological, sociological, psychological theories).
- Write a short comparison (200–300 words) of the theories you find, including your opinion on which is most convincing and why.

Task 4: Watch & Reflect

Watch a crime documentary or drama and write a 150-word reflection. Suggested examples include:
- "When They See Us" (Netflix)
- "Making a Murderer" (Netflix)
- "Mindhunter" (Netflix)

In your reflection, consider:
- What aspects of criminology did the programme highlight?
- What did you learn or find interesting?
- Was the justice system portrayed fairly?

Get Organised for September

Recommended Materials:
- Ring binder + dividers
- A4 lined paper
- Highlighters and sticky notes

Optional Reading:
- "Criminology Book" – DK
- "Inside the Criminal Mind" – Stanton Samenow
- WJEC Criminology Level 3 textbook (for Unit 1 and 2)

Deadline: First Criminology Lesson in September

Bring all your completed tasks with you. You may be asked to discuss or present them.

Enjoy your summer and start thinking critically about crime and justice!
If you have any questions, email: Ms J Griffiths and Mrs L Burgess Griffiths.j@bil.svmat.uk burgess.l@bil.svmat.uk