

Level 3 Diploma in Criminology

Welcome to Criminology. I am thrilled that you have chosen to study this fantastic course with us at Yate Academy. Throughout the 2 years of Criminology, you will have the opportunity to study a variety of topics including why crimes are committed, crime awareness, what it takes to prosecute suspects and look at if the punishment meets the crime. Criminology will test your problem-solving skills, deep critical thinking, observation skills and analytical skills. These skills, combined will allow you to really look into the criminal mind and assess the judicial system we have today. I am really excited to start this journey with you in September.

Mr Charles – Criminology, Sociology and History teacher

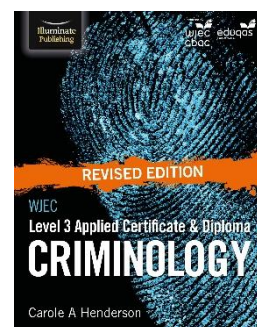
Understanding the course

| Specification | Level 3 Diploma |
|---------------|---|
| | <p>Controlled assessment 1: Unit 1 10 hours – January 2026</p> <p>Exam 1: Unit 2 with some unit 1 knowledge 1 hr 30 – May/June 2026</p> <p>Controlled assessment 2: Unit 3 10 hours – January 2027</p> <p>Exam 2: Unit 4 with some unit 1,2 and 3 knowledge 1 hr 30 – May/June 2027</p> |
| Teacher | Mr Charles rhcharles@yateacademy.co.uk |

Course requirements

Please come prepared to your first lesson with the following materials:

- Pencil case with black pens, pencils, ruler, rubber
- multiple highlighters
- 1 lever arch folders
- Criminology text book
- 2 blank, lined exercise books, 1 for class notes and 1 for essay practise
- A diary or planner



Summer bridging work

To ensure you start the year as successfully as possible, please come to your first lesson having completed the following tasks.

Consolidate

| Task | Time expected | Complete |
|---|---------------|----------|
| Research the UK laws and create a list of acts that are currently illegal in the UK and for each crime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of Crime • Brief description of the crime and why it is illegal • Reasons for committing the crime • Punishment for the crime | 1 hour | |
| During this course you will have to know a number of key terms and their relation with criminal behaviour. Write a definition for each of the following key terms and turn them into flashcards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deviance • Cyber-bullying • Dark figure of crime • Decriminalise • Perpetrators • Legalise • Stigma • Scaremonger • Moral panic • Simitator • Islamophobia • Amnesty • Civil liberties • Vigilante • referendum | 1 hour | |

Apply

Task: Read the article about Crime as a reflection of society and complete the questions

Although most citizens in developed Western societies have relatively little direct contact with crime as victims and even fewer as offenders, criminality reaches out to influence most aspects of people's daily lives. Criminology and related social science disciplines rarely examine these broader aspects, yet a moments consideration reveals how much of societal processes are geared to dealing with crime. Would large-scale police forces be necessary if they only had to deal with crowd and traffic control? Would a vast judiciary and all their related employees in support be necessary if they just needed to deal with family disputes and civil proceedings? Then there is the insurance industry and the financial activity which builds on it. Would it be so commercially successful if its clients felt no need to insure against crime? Television drama, of course, would be impoverished if it could not upload a nightly diet of murder and mayhem. Factual broadcasting also has a prominent stream reporting on criminality.

These considerations show how much of society's resources are devoted to dealing with, or preparing for the possibility of, crime. But they also hint at the broader implications that crime has for many different facets of society. They suggest that rather than being an outlawed subset of social activity crime is an integrated aspect of societal processes. Therefore, consideration of all the direct and indirect social impacts of criminality is worthwhile, not just in terms of understanding crime but also because of how it elucidates more general social considerations.

Crime as a reflection of society

At the heart of criminal activity is an individual carrying out illegal activity. Understanding the processes that move and shape that activity are therefore crucial to any consideration of crime and society. When the crimes considered are of the most heinous kind, such as the mass shootings examined by Mykietiak then it is tempting to assume that there are unique individual aspects of the culprit that are the cause. Yet as Mykietiak demonstrates, the views of the perpetrator she studied are deeply embedded in his reactions to social and societal processes. His extremely low self-esteem is related to the multiple social inequalities he believes he has experienced.

A recent issue of *Contemporary Social Science* is devoted to the many different inequalities that abound and their wide-ranging consequences. But Mykietiak's in-depth study of a mass shooter demonstrates how these inequalities are internalised by an individual to influence his feelings of low-self worth. Society cannot be blamed for his violent actions, but the social inequalities he perceives go some way to explain his developing anger and frustration.

The other side of this experience are public attitudes to minorities that influence their experiences. Bulut's review of prejudice towards Muslims shines an interesting light on the basis for such attitudes. She reveals that, contrary to commonly held views, widespread negative attitudes towards Muslims are not based on fear of violence in the wake of terrorist attacks, notably those of 9/11, but rather the view that the American way of life is the best and any sub-culture that is different from that is a threat to the traditional American values. It is therefore a lack of contact with Muslims and a belief that they are fundamentally 'un-American' that gives rise to prejudice against them. Thus, the well-established finding in relation to attitudes to other ethnic minorities, that lack of contact and ignorance are usually on the basis of prejudice, is shown to be relevant today in attitudes to Muslims.

Islam is, of course, a powerful religion that provides rules that cover every aspect of daily life. These rules typically include strictures on a wide range of criminal activities. It may therefore be assumed that adherence to conventional Islamic requirements, far from leading to anti-social activity, should actually deter from crime. To study this directly Ozbay surveyed a large number of people in various locations in Turkey. Because Turkey is constitutionally a secular country although the great majority of its population is Moslem, this enables Ozbay to explore correlations between crime and religiosity. He found that there was no strong direct relationship at all. But interestingly the Islamic prohibition on alcohol did tend to relate to lower crime levels. This is no surprise in many other countries where alcohol abuse is known to fuel many aspects of criminality.

The role of a religious component in influencing criminality is one aspect of many cultural forces that shape the amount of crime in any country. It is therefore of value to explore the possibility that a country may have a 'natural' crime rate as this lends support to the view that there are many currents in any social context that support offending. This issue is explored in a statistically sophisticated manner by Jagadish Sahu looking at crime rates in India. He shows that although there are small discontinuities from time to time, there is a general trend for the crime rate to remain stable. Even examining different types of crime this stability remains, but importantly that is more likely to be the case for instrumental crimes that have a financial incentive. This raises the possibility that violent crimes may be a stronger reflection of short-term changes in society than property-related crimes.

As Sahu makes clear, the existence of a natural crime rate in India over an extended period of time raises questions about how powerful conventional deterrents, such as policing and legal processes,

are likely to be. Structural forces within society appear to maintain crime levels, whether it is education, inequality, employment or other ingrained processes. It is these that must be tackled if natural crime rates are to be influenced.

The social processes that support criminal activity can be complex. This is clearly illustrated by the remarkable study by Sogo Olofinbiyi in Nigeria. Through discussions with and surveys of sex workers and those associated with them, including brothel keepers, he revealed that sex workers become involved in criminality for many of the same reasons that led them into prostitution, mainly financial gain. Many of the young women he surveyed were also drug users, but his important finding is that their use of drugs did not generate their criminal activity. Rather it was the network of contacts that sex work brought them into contact with that opened the way for a variety of criminality, even murder of clients, and these actions were typically to enhance their meagre income for prostitution.

Olofinbiyi's unusually deep study of adolescent, female sex workers in Lagos shows that once individuals drift outside of the prevailing cultural norms in order to survive that a way is opened to further illegal activity. The survival of the sub-cultures that foster sex work contributes to general patterns of criminality, being an important component of the natural crime rate. Drug use amongst these young women cannot be blamed for the criminality they drift into. They make choices that relate to their understanding of the limited opportunities available to them.

Questions

1. What questions does this article suggest that society is able to deal with crime?
2. What does the article suggest is at the heart of criminal activity and why? Provide an example.
3. What are the public attitudes towards Muslims according to this article? Why?
4. What does the criminologist Jagdish Sahu study of crime rates in India reveal?
5. What does Olofinbiyi's study reveal about the connection between sex workers and drug use in Nigeria?

Extend

Pick two of the videos in the list watch. Summarise the key points.

| Topic | What is it about? | Link |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Criminological Theories | <p>Exploring the mind of a killer Psychopathic killers are the basis for some must-watch TV, but what really makes them tick? Neuroscientist Jim Fallon talks about brain scans and genetic analysis that may uncover the rotten wiring in the nature (and nurture) of murderers. In a too-strange-for-fiction twist, he shares a fascinating family history that makes his work chillingly personal.</p> | <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2V0vOFexY4 Watch time: 7 minutes</p> |
| Crime and Punishment | <p>Why smart Statistics are the key to fighting crime When she became the attorney general of New Jersey in 2007, Anne Milgram quickly discovered a few startling facts: not only did her team not really know who they were putting in jail, but they had no way of understanding if their decisions were actually making the public safer. And so began her ongoing, inspirational quest to bring data analytics and statistical analysis to the US criminal justice system</p> | <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJNESMhIxQ0 Watch time: 12 minutes</p> |
| From Crime Scene to Courtroom | <p>Crime scene investigators Dr Ian Turner from the University of Derby introduces the concept of crime scenes, explains how they may be different and what they have in common, as well as talking about the role of a Crime Scene Investigator within a crime scene.</p> | <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgzdhUAJrBA Watch time: 4 minutes</p> |

