

Criminology (A beginner's guide)

What is criminology?

- It is the study of crime and deviant behaviour.

Why should you choose this enrichment?

- This enrichment course provides a good introduction to the basic principles associated with this social science and is ideal for students wishing to study criminology, law, politics, social policy or sociology at university. It would also be relevant for students interested in any role within the criminal justice system, such as in the police force, prison officer, probation officer or crime scene investigator.

What will we cover?

- You will learn about different types of crimes, explanations for why people commit crime and how we deal with criminals. In doing so we will look at real life examples of high-profile crimes and learn about the media campaigns that can arise from them, which the aim of changing the law.
- We will also spend some time examining what happens at the scene of a crime, the forensic and police investigation process, how cases are prepared for trial, and what happens in the courtroom at a criminal trial. Plus look at current forms of punishments, such as prison sentences, and consider how effective these are for deterring criminals.
- Some of the areas we will be looking at are:
 - a. Why are certain crimes not reported to the police?
 - b. How does the media represent certain crimes?
 - c. How do we define what is and is not a crime?
 - d. Criminological theories (explanations of crime)
 - e. How useful are these explanations for explaining crime?
 - f. Who is involved in criminal investigations?
 - g. How are investigations carried out?

