



# Criminology

**Criminology is the scientific study of the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of criminal behaviour.**

As a student of Criminology, you will explore the different types of crime that occur in our society and why certain people are more likely, than others, to commit and be convicted of a criminal offense. You will also study how various police departments investigate crime, how crime is prosecuted, via our court system, and how it is punished.

If you wish to study Criminology, you will need a good foundation in English (minimum Grade 5 at GCSE). You will be assessed through two extended pieces of coursework and two external exams. Criminology is a course that works very well, and promotes excellent levels of understanding and progress, when studied alongside other Social Science disciplines such as A Level Psychology and Sociology. Your units of study will be:

## Year 12

### **Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime**

#### **Internally assessed assignment**

This part of the course will allow you to understand a wide range of different crimes that are committed and the reasons why people may not always report such crimes.

## Unit 2: Criminological Theories

### **External exam**

You will begin by looking at how we define crime by exploring the relationship between criminal behaviour and deviance. In addition, you will explore psychological and sociological explanations for criminal behaviour and what leads people to commit different types of crimes.

## Year 13

### **Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom**

#### **Internally assessed assignment**

You will look at the different methods of investigating crime, including crime scene investigation and forensic science in order to justify their effectiveness in criminal investigations. You will then analyse how the evidence gathered is used within the criminal trial process in order to reach a guilty or not guilty verdict.

### **Unit 4: Crime and Punishment**

#### **External exam**

In this unit you will study types of punishment for criminal behaviour, why we use these various methods and how effective they are. You will also look at the different agencies who work to stop people getting involved in criminal activity or prevent those with previous convictions from re-offending.

### **Future Study and Career Opportunities**

Criminology is a course that links well to degree level courses such as Law, Politics, Psychology, Sociology and Forensic Science.

In addition, this qualification enables learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within many aspects of the Criminal Justice System, Social Work, Counselling or Police Force.

# Government & Politics

**Government and Politics fosters debate and lateral thinking which not only create success at A Level, but also well rounded students who are prepared for the challenge of university.**

Due to the dynamic nature of the subject, students are encouraged to become involved in political events. Additionally, the department organises a visit to the Houses of Parliament and areas of political interest in London. To complement this our constituency Member of Parliament visits school to enlighten students about the intricacies of the Westminster Village and its incumbents.

In year 12 you will gain an overview of the political and electoral systems in the UK, developing a strong understanding of how our system works, as well as evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of these processes. You will also explore the origins of our Constitution and key institutions such as the role of the Cabinet, Lords and the Judiciary. "Why people vote in the way that they do" is also a key question that we cover in year 12 and you will be expected to refer to recent events such as the 2015 General Election, the 2014 Scottish Referendum for independence and, most recently, the EU Referendum to explain your views. You will also study political ideologies across both years.

In the second half of the course you will study the Politics of the USA and identify similarities and differences between our system and the one in the States. You will research and investigate the role of pressure groups in American society, as well as the important roles of the President, Congress and the Supreme Court.

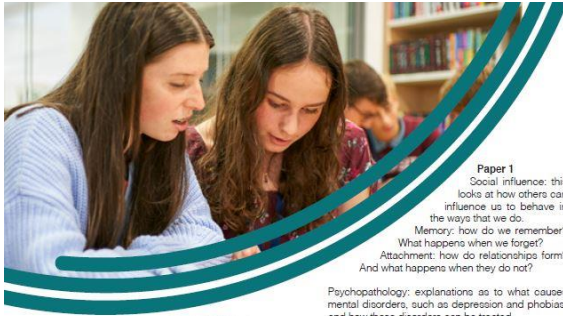
If you opt to study A Level Government and Politics you must have a keen interest in current affairs and follow political developments as they arise. You will be expected to read a high quality newspaper on a regular basis, watch BBC or Channel 4 news, as well as other political programmes such as News Night, Question Time and The Politics Show. In addition, students should engage with social media in order to track politicians' views and keep abreast of new announcements. Debate and discussion are key features of Government and Politics lessons so it is important that you are fully informed so that you engage appropriately in your lessons.

## **Future Study and Career Opportunities**

This course can lead to Higher Education opportunities in Politics and International Relations and will open the doors to a variety of careers including those within the Civil Service, Human Resources, Diplomatic Services, Public Affairs and Market Research.







## Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour: it focuses on why we think, feel, act and interact as we do both as individuals and as members of a social group.

As an A Level Psychology student you will be given the opportunity to study the core areas of Psychology, as well as having the option to specialise in topics such as mental illness and criminology. You will also experience what it is like to be a research psychologist, planning and carrying out practical investigations into areas such as memory.

Students wishing to study A Level Psychology will need a good foundation in English (minimum Grade 5 at GCSE). 10% of the course involves application and analysis of mathematical data so students are required to have a Grade 5 at GCSE in this subject or study core mathematics.

Students will work towards being assessed in three advanced level examinations.

### Paper 1

**Social influence:** this looks at how others can influence us to behave in the ways that we do.  
**Memory:** how do we remember? What happens when we forget?  
**Attachment:** how do relationships form? And what happens when they do not?

**Psychopathology:** explanations as to what causes mental disorders, such as depression and phobias, and how these disorders can be treated.

### Paper 2

**Approaches:** how psychologists investigate and explain human behaviour. This unit evaluates whether our behaviour is due to our biology or our environment.

**Biopsychology:** the ways in which the brain and neurotransmitters influence our behaviour, thoughts and feelings.

**Research methods:** the methods psychologists employ to gather data on behaviour.

### Paper 3

**Schizophrenia:** the causes, explanations and treatments of schizophrenia.

**Forensic:** why do people commit crimes? How do we try and catch offenders? How do we deal with offenders once caught?

**Gender:** what do we mean by gender and sex? How does our gender develop? Why do some people have atypical gender?

**Issues and Debates:** where does psychology fit in a range of interesting issues and debates?

### Future Study and Career Opportunities

Psychology is a multi-disciplinary A Level and therefore complements a variety of other areas of study, from the natural sciences and maths to the arts and humanity-based subjects.

Career opportunities include Medicine, Teaching, Counselling, Occupational Psychology, Sport & Exercise Psychology and Health Psychology.

## Sociology

**Sociology is the academic study of social behaviour: it focuses on how both individuals and groups are influenced by institutions such as the family and education.**

The subject matter is diverse and ranges from dysfunction and deviance to beliefs and the notions of dominance and fundamentalism. Unifying these key areas of study is Sociology's main objective: to understand the extent to which human behaviour and action both shape and are shaped by surrounding social and cultural structures. It empowers students to be able to ask and answer key questions regarding social justice such as who and what is responsible for groups of students failing to achieve, increasing crime levels and domestic violence.

Students wishing to study A Level Sociology require a good foundation in English (minimum Grade 5 at GCSE), in order to investigate and analyse, via extended writing.

Students will work towards being assessed in three advanced level examinations:

### Paper 1: Education and Theory and Methods

This paper investigates how variables, such as social class, ethnicity and gender, can shape educational outcomes. It examines and evaluates how research methods and theoretical perspectives are employed to interpret the effects of government policies, school factors and home circumstances on student achievement.

### Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

**Topic 1 - Families and Households**  
 The focus of this unit is on which types of families are common, whether there is such a thing as a 'normal' family and the damage that can be done within the private sphere of family life.

**Topic 2 - Beliefs in Society**

This unit concentrates on the significance of religion in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of a reduction in religious beliefs, the spread of religious fundamentalism as well as questioning if science has reduced the need for religion.

### Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

This paper looks at the various theories on why people commit crimes, the differences in the profiles of criminals, why certain people are more likely to commit a crime or be labelled as a criminal and how our definition of what is criminal has changed with new technology.

### Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Sociology can lead to Higher Education courses in Sociology, Social Policy, Psychology, Journalism, Law and Criminology.

Sociology supports careers in Law, Business, Teaching, Research, Journalism, Police, Social Work and Nursing.

