

The Sheffield Sixth Form – Criminology Pre-induction Summer Project

A Level Criminology

Welcome to the A Level Criminology study guide. This guide will help you prepare for your studies with us in September.

A brief bit about what you study

As a criminology graduate with critical thinking, analytical and communications skills, you're attractive to employers both inside and outside the criminal justice sector. The police, prison service and crime scene investigator spring to mind as careers but what about social worker, or youth worker, community development worker, political risk analyst, lawyer, barrister or even judge!

A Level Criminology will help provide you with the foundations for your criminology and also law career. There are 4 units to complete over 2 years. It is the only A Level at the college where there is an external exam and coursework in each year. In your first year your first unit (coursework) you will examine the types of crime that are committed and also how crimes change through campaigns for change. In year 2 you will follow a crime from an initial crime scene, including evidence gathering and investigative techniques and also examine miscarriages of justice. You will also complete a unit on crime and punishment and the law-making process.

How to prepare for joining us

To help prepare you for your coursework in year 1 you have 2 tasks to complete. Task 1 should take you up to 7 hours and task 2 should take up to 8 hours. You should split the task and complete them in bits of around 1 hour each. This gives you time to reflect and will allow you to return to your task and possibly change your answers. This will get you used to completing your coursework when at college and also exam revision techniques.

TASK 1

Research into **one** of the following campaigns for change and prepare a poster (at least A3 size) based on the questions below:

- Sarah's law
 - Ann Ming's campaign to abolish the double jeopardy law
 - Clare's law
- 1) Explain what the campaign was about – how did it come about? Was it a result of the crime and briefly describe the crime in general. You may want to include statistical data.
 - 2) Who were the key people involved?
 - 3) What did the campaign try to change and did it work
 - 4) Did the campaign use media, like newspapers, social media, posters, leaflets, TV as part of their campaign.

Task 1 A Level extension task

During your coursework, you will be asked to compare more than one campaign. This will gain you higher grades. You do not have to do this as part of this task but you have the option to try it here. If you do, compare more than one campaign against the 4 tasks above.

TASK 2

Now it is time to design your own campaign. This is actually what you will be asked to do in your coursework. In your coursework, you will be asked to produce a variety of different things. Task 1 allowed you to have a look at a campaign for change and how it may have changed a law or people's opinions. Write a report that includes the following:

a) Choose a topic for your campaign. This could be from the list below or your own. It maybe something you want to change in your own area.

- Teenage knife crime
- Drugs misuse
- Homelessness
- Hate crime
- Honour crime
- Domestic abuse
- Your own choice

b) Now you have chosen your topic of change, write a brief paragraph about it generally, including some statistical data or some examples and who are the likely victims.

c) You need to identify the following:

Aim – what is the aim of your campaign, is it to raise awareness that the crime happens or to change the law, or to raise money for a shelter / provide services.

Target audience – who are you going to aim your campaign at? Is it the local community or certain age groups?

What materials would you use to promote it – leaflets, social media, TV, posters, hoodies, beer mats, badges, wristbands, etc. How much would this cost?

Timescales - when would you launch your campaign and when would you launch your media? It may be that you release certain parts of your campaign like posters in month 1 and then Facebook page in month 2 and tweets in month 3.

- d) Mock-up of a media design - You should draw a mock-up an example of one of your media materials identified above. This could be a poster or a leaflet or social media or anything else and include it in your report. You may want to use images as part of it. You should explain why you are using these images, style of wording and phrases you have used. If it is a Facebook page you should draw out a sample page. You should include images and, if you can't draw, you can print out images or just simply explain what images you would use and why. If it is a series of tweets that you are designing, then just write out what the tweets would be.
- e) Lastly, how will you know if your campaign is being successful? What are you going to put in place to measure how it is going? What would you do if it is not working?

At any time you can add to your poster / report. For your A3 poster you can attach information to it by stapling extra sheets. Not too many though. We are looking at how concisely you can write but we want you to show how much you have researched and your writing style. It will also be obvious if you have made an effort and where you have got stuck. This will help us with directing our teaching style. There is no wrong answer.

On behalf of the A Level Criminology Team, we wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you in September.

If you want to extend your reading you may wish to buy the first year textbooks (but you do not need them until you start the course).

- WJEC / Eduqas Level 3 Applied Certificate/Diploma Criminology by Carole A Henderson.

This is the course text book as recommended by the awarding body.