

## **Yr. 11 Criminology -** **Preparatory Summer Work 2025-2026**

Criminology is a study of criminal justice and law enforcement. It looks at crime, offenders and victims. Who are these and how are they investigated?



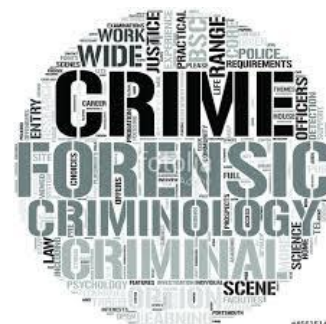
Part of what you study in the first year is the study of some of the theories within criminology that try to explain why a person commits a crime and the public's response. We look at theories throughout the course and in greater detail in the second part of year 1 which continues through into second year.

To get you started on the journey of studying criminology, we have set you some interesting activities to complete prior to your course commencing later this year. These are designed to engage your thought processes within criminology and to get you asking questions and in your search for answers.

The booklet includes a range of materials and tasks and you will need access to the internet for some of them but not all of them. You will need to read articles, watch programmes and formulate your answers down in writing. We want you to be inspired, to go further than the work we have set today and to research, watch and discuss as much as you can within the field of criminology.

We want you to use this booklet as a guide to start you down your path in the study of criminology and to help build your excitement, in preparation for your next two years with us at Hereford Sixth Form College. This is your chance to make choices about what you want to watch, what you want to talk about and what you want to get from this course. It's an ideal time to show us how enthusiastic you are and get you into the practice of reading research, watching crime programmes and hopefully discussing and debating crim with friends and family.

Nicky Taylor (Head of Criminology)



Task 1:

Draw an image of a **stereotypical** criminal. Try to include features you think a criminal has. Don't draw any specific criminal- just what the average criminal looks like. Don't worry- we are not judging you on your drawing skills!

Task 2
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Read the following article on the age of responsibility -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-50763713> BBC News Responsible Child:  
Can a 10-year-old be a cold-blooded murderer?  
(by Serena Kutchinsky)

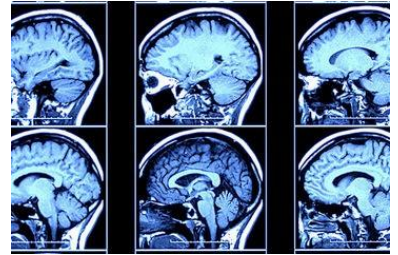
Choose a side and give your argument as to why this age is appropriate or inappropriate for criminal responsibility. Use the article to help.

Research other children who have killed and try to add this research into your argument to validate it, as well as the points made in the article. Remember if you make a statement, you need to back up what you are saying with evidence you have gathered for it for example,

“By setting the age of criminal responsibility at 10, it allows flexibility in the addressing of offending behaviour by children, whilst allowing early intervention to help prevent further offending.”

### Task 3

Watch the TED talk – “Exploring the mind of a killer” with Jim Fallon



[https://www.ted.com/talks/jim\\_fallon\\_exploring\\_the\\_mind\\_of\\_a\\_killer?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/jim_fallon_exploring_the_mind_of_a_killer?language=en)

6 mins 32

What are 5 key points of the talk that stood out to you?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

#### Task 4



#### **Do you believe in the death penalty?**

Give your top 5 arguments for why we should have/shouldn't have the death penalty, depending on what you believe.

You need to give valid, reasoned arguments.

You can use real cases to support what you are saying.

Try to think as a criminologist and don't just rely on your personalised feelings e.g. do not say it is wrong because... "I don't believe in it". Instead, look at religious arguments, acts of miscarriages of justice, crimes committed by those released from prison as a repeat offender etc.

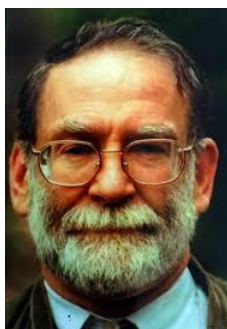
Be passionate in your argument but find evidence to back up what you are saying- use statistics, theory, quotes, cases etc.

## Task 5

**Can you spot a killer** and distinguish them from an innocent person? Are there certain characteristics that are genetic and means you will become a criminal? Are some people born evil? Lombroso was a theorist who helped found modern day psychological profiling and believed that your facial features give crucial clues as to whether you are born to be a criminal.

Or is it down to how we are nurtured? Are criminals created as a result of the environment they grow up in? Bandura believed we learned our criminal behaviour through peer and family observation; much like a child learns from watching those around them.

Look at the images below and see if you recognise any of them. Can you find out who they all are and what they did?



## Task 6



Watch the TED talk given by **Zimbardo** and The Stanford Prison Experiment. If you are interested further there is a Hollywood movie by the same name 'The Stanford Prison Experiment' directed by Kyle Alvarez. It's available on Netflix, Amazon and to rent on YouTube and googleplay amongst others.

TED talk link:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/philip\\_zimbardo\\_the\\_psychology\\_of\\_evil?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_the_psychology_of_evil?language=en)

## Task 7

There are hundreds of books/articles written about true crime and lots of podcasts these days. These are available in your local library, online, as an audio or kindle book or in shops. Perhaps even on one of the bookshelves in your own home. Find one that catches your interest and read it during the summer holidays. Sit in the sun and lose yourself within the pages of the book/ an article or even listen to an audio book or podcast. Drive your thirst for knowledge and feed your desire for understanding why people commit crime.

What book did you read and what fascinated you about it?

## Task 8

Familiarise yourself with the world of true crime investigation. There is a channel dedicated to this on Sky if you have it called Sky Crime. Netflix has lots of true crime documentaries, Amazon has books and films as well as documentaries available to view online, YouTube has lots too. You can search for videos online and use iPlayer to catch previously aired programmes. Try to immerse yourself in the study of crime and listen, read and watch as much as possible. Watch one of the following and be prepared to feed back to class when you start the course...

- The documentary on Amanda Knox on Netflix or link for you tube <https://youtu.be/LQFNbu4BMWl> or Netflix/Amazon
- The Staircase – watch the documentary on Netflix or the drama adaptation with Coli Firth on Sky A
- 24 Hours in Police Custody- ch4
- Baby Reindeer – stalking series based on a true story with the actual victim in the lead role – Netflix
- The Murder of Jill Dando- BBC iPlayer (we cover this case a lot in yr2)
- Parole – BBC iPlayer (particularly series 1, episodes 2 and 3)
- Sarah Everhard: The Search for Justice - BBC iPlayer
- Criminal UK – police interviews - Netflix
- Conviction- BBC iPlayer (true story of a British miscarriage of justice)
- Inside Death Row with Trevor McDonald  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omug4yZLKek> (first of 2 episodes)
- Dahmer – Netflix (drama on the serial killer)
- Maxine – Netflix (Maxine Carr story about the Soham Murders)
- Fred and Rose West: A British Horror Story, available on Netflix



- Us and Them, BBC iPlayer. Discusses the aftermath of an inmate assaulting his cellmate and a prison officer
- Gone Girls: The Long Island Serial Killer on Netflix. The murderers killing took place over 15 years.
- Killer Inside: The Mind of Aaron Fernandez- how identity and head injury may have turned an athlete to a murder (Netflix)
- American Murder: the family next door (Netflix documentary about Chris Watts and the murder of his wife and daughters)
- Trial by Media (Netflix- looks at 6 crimes and their coverage by the media)
- Aileen Wuornos: Life and Death of a serial killer. Journalist Nick Broomfield looks at the serial killer's life from childhood up to her execution. Available on YouTube.
- Mindhunter (Netflix) - series based on the true story of how psychological profiling began in the FBI
- Unlocked- a jail experiment (brilliant prison experiment series) - Netflix
- Deepwater Horizon (movie based on the oil rig disaster with Mark Wahlberg)
- The Forgotten West Memphis Three – Amazon Prime.  
Documentary follow up to the acclaimed and shocking three-part series 'Paradise Lost' based on the murders of three small boys by the 'West Memphis Three'
- Memories of a Murderer: The Nilsen Tapes, on Netflix
- Appropriate Adult- the story of Janet Leach who due to her role as Fred West's appropriate adult assisted in uncovering his and Rosemary West's crimes. Available on ITVhub
- Parole – BBC iPlayer series on parole board
- Time (BBC iPlayer – there are 2 series but can be watched totally separated)
- Try some true crime podcasts or you tube channels for related topics.

- Maddoff- the Monster of Wall St on Netflix (we look at this case in class)
- Adolescence on Netflix. Excellent for discussion of the manosphere and incels

### Task 9

1. Research a topical (local) crime reported in the media over the summer holidays.
2. Make notes on the offence itself, the offender(s), and the victim(s).
3. Write a short paragraph on why you think the crime occurred- what drove the offender to commit the act and what punishment if any, the offender should receive? State your reasons why you feel that way. If they have already been to court, comment on the result and say why it was an appropriate verdict and sentence or not, with reasons to justify your argument.

### Task 10

Familiarise yourself with the WJEC exam board that your criminology course is with [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Look at the course specification, past exam papers and mark schemes and the examiner's reports. These papers will give you a guideline to the types of thing you will study on your course and how the exams are set out. The specification gives the topics we look at and explains more about expectations of the course, including the all-important controlled assessments in units 1 and 2.

Write down any questions below that you have after looking at these resources so that we can help to answer them when you start the course...