



Getting Ahead – Pre-course Work

#ThinkBrock

Criminology Level 3 Diploma (equivalent to one A Level)

Welcome to **Criminology**. In preparation for the start of the course, please complete these tasks and have them with you to hand in during your first week of college in September.

These tasks should take you approximately four and a half hours to complete and are designed to give you an introduction to the subject, and the expectations we have for you to complete at least four and a half hours of independent study, per subject, per week.

Task 1 – Documentaries

Choose from the documentaries below for an introduction to some of the themes, content and case studies you will cover as part of your Criminology course. Sensitive topics are discussed in all the suggestions.



Forensics: The Real CSI



The Murder of Jill Dando



Parole



The Pembrokeshire Murders



The Tinder Swindler



Task 2 – Genetic Theories Poster Task

This task is to introduce you to the Genetic Theories of criminality. You need to research the theories below and then create a poster summarising your research.

You need to research:

1. Christiansen (1977) – a twin study on twin pairs from Denmark
2. Crowe (1972) – an adoption study



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3. Brunner (1993) – genes (MAOM) and serotonin

For each of the 3 theories you should include the:

- Aim – what did the research do?
- Sample – who was studied?
- Findings – what did they research find?
- Conclusion – how does this research support the theory that genetics can be a cause of criminality?

Evaluation

- Include the strengths of the genetic theories in explaining the cause of criminality. (Are the studies scientific? Do the studies help criminologists focus on one cause of crime?)
- Include the weaknesses of the genetic theories in explaining the cause of criminality. (Do the studies ignore other causes of crime? Could the studies cause offence or stereotyping?)

Task 3: The Social Construction of Criminality

What is regarded as a crime can change depending on where you are in the world. There is no universal definition of crime. In addition, if you visited England 200 years ago our criminal justice system would look very different to how it looks in 2025. Something that was a crime 200 years ago may not be a crime today and vice versa! Furthermore, something that is considered illegal in the UK may not be the same in other countries. **Crime changes over culture, time and circumstance.**

- Task: Research different crimes around the world which change due to **different cultures** and write down your findings. E.g. 'drugs laws around the world' 'laws on prostitution around the world' 'laws in Saudi Arabia/China/North Korea'
- Extension: research how crime has changed over time in England. Make notes of your research with key dates. E.g. 'capital punishment history' 'gay rights in England' 'women's rights in England.'

Getting Equipped

You will need the following:

- Lever arch folder
- 3 black pens
- Highlighters
- Small ruler