

Criminology (WJEC)

Level 3 Preparation Work

Task 1: 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 - 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 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 2: 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

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

Task 3: Do you believe in the death penalty?

Give your top 5 arguments for why we should have or 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 4: Watch the TED talk given by Zimbardo and The Stanford Prison Experiment

TED talk link: https://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_the_psychology_of_evil?language=en

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.



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Task 5: Familiarise yourself with the world of true crime investigation.

Sky Crime, Netflix, YouTube and iPlayer have a great range of true crime shows, while Amazon has both books and videos. 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 acclaimed Netflix programme - 'Making a Murderer'
- 'Tiger King' - documentary series on Netflix
- The documentary on Amanda Knox, e.g. <https://youtu.be/LQFNbu4BMWl>
- Inside Death Row with Trevor McDonald, e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7czgQRUUuT0&list=PLKLYdlwQ1baNeEWZelkhJEgEVnYLpnPEv&index=4>
- The Keepers series on Netflix (this is about sexual abuse and a murder)
- Rodney King- on Netflix (the case related to the riots in the US)
- American Murder: the family next door (Netflix documentary about Chris Watts)
- Trial by Media (Netflix- looks at 6 crimes and their coverage by the media)
- An hour to catch a killer (youtube documentary about the stalker victim Alice Ruggles) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ex4Jr8Vx7SI>
- Goodfellas (film based on the Italian mafia)
- Mindhunter (Netflix) - based on the true story of how psychological profiling began in the FBI
- Deepwater Horizon (movie based on the oil rig disaster with Mark Wahlberg)

Task 6: Defining Deviance

Follow the link and complete the activities: [Page-78-Defining-deviance.pdf \(criminology.uk.net\)](#)

Task 7: Sentencing Offenders – complete this activity for September and bring your answers to class

Watch the clip below and answer the questions that follow. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4ClveEDtmk>

1. What does the clip suggest about how you would decide on a sentence for a criminal?
2. What is one of the most important things judges and magistrates should consider when sentencing?
3. What do judges and magistrates use to decide on sentences?
4. Although circumstances of crimes might be different, what is always the same?
5. Note the 8 points that judges and magistrates consider v examples of each one.
6. What are the four main types of sentence?
7. Why is prison used as a punishment?
8. How much time will someone spend in prison?
9. What do community sentences include?
10. What determines the level of a fine?
11. What is a discharge? Why are they sometimes used?

