



A-level Criminology

Summer Transition Work

Criminology Summer Work

So, you want to study Criminology at UCB6?? Have a go at these activities over the summer holidays to prepare you for starting the course in September. Your teacher will be checking that you have completed the activities, so remember to bring this with you on your first lesson.

Task 1: Criminal Case Study

Research a crime/criminal of your choice. This could be a financial crime, state crime, homicide, serial crime – anything! You can watch Netflix documentaries etc, or by scanning the QR code, it will take you to the Real Stories youtube channel where there are hundreds of cases to choose from. You will need to cross reference the information from a selection of sources to make sure you have the correct details. Fill out the casefile below on what you have found out:



Name of the offender(s):

Key information about the offender(s), who were they, what was their background?

A summary of what crimes they committed

Why did they commit their crime(s)? Were there any clues in their childhood? Did they have any biological issues (brain damage, relatives who also committed crime)? What were their life circumstances at the time the crime was committed?

Did they receive any punishment? If so, what was it?

If you were responsible for providing punishment for the offender, what punishment would you give them and why?
What would your punishment be trying to do?

Task 2: Crimes in your local area

Using the West Midlands Police Crime Map, that you can reach by scanning the following QR code. Research the following statistics for either your local area, or city centre Birmingham



1. What is the most common crime that has been reported? _____
2. What % of crimes reported are a moral crime? _____
3. Over the last 3 years have the number of crimes reported, increased or decreased?

4. How many crimes has the offender been given a caution? _____
5. Is the data that the police have reported an accurate representation of the crimes that are happening? _____
6. Why might individuals choose not to report a crime? _____

But the ONS notes that the Home Office recently clarified to police forces that they should record shoplifting where violence or threats of violence are used as robbery of business property.

It said this had likely had a "small effect" on the number of shoplifting offences recorded since April last year.

This change could also account for the increase in offences classed as robbery of businesses, which rose 78% from 14,691 in 2024 to 26,158 last year.

Last year's number of knife-related killings is also the lowest since comparable data was first collected in 2010-11.

The dataset also shows that the total number of homicide offences last year - when there were 503 offences - fell by 6% compared with 2024, when there were 534.

Homicide offences includes murder, manslaughter, infanticide and causing or allowing the death or serious injury of a child or vulnerable adult, according to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Overall recorded knife-related crime also fell by 10% in 2025, compared to 2024, with 49,151 offences.

More than a quarter (28%) of knife-related offences were recorded by the Metropolitan Police, although it saw a 17% fall in recorded knife crime compared with the previous year.

Katie Kempen, chief executive of charity Victim Support, said the overall fall in knife killings was welcome "but every case is one too many".

She added: "Behind every statistic is a person deprived of their life, and countless friends and family trying to come to terms with the horror of losing their loved one."

Offences involving firearms also decreased by 9% in 2025 compared to the previous year, with 4,753 offences compared to 5,241.

To build a bigger picture of crime in England and Wales, the ONS also referred to estimates from its annual crime survey in the new dataset.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is a face-to-face survey which asks people aged 16 and over about their experiences of crime in the past year.

It found there were an estimated 2.6 million theft incidents in 2025, an 11% fall compared to the previous year.

Actual police data included in the ONS dataset also showed a 1% fall in recorded shoplifting offences to 509,566 in 2025, compared with 2024, despite [recent surges in the crime](#).

1. Which fell by a greater percentage: homicide offences, knife-related killings, firearm offences? _____
2. If knife-related crime fell by 10% to 49,151 offences in 2025, what does this suggest about the overall trend in knife crime? _____

3. Why does the article suggesting that the 78% increase in business robberies may not necessarily mean there was a huge rise in actual crime? _____

4. Which statistic in the article do you think is the most significant? Use evidence from the text to justify your answer. _____

