Centre Number 12430

**Unit 34 – Criminal Psychology (BTEC National Award Applied Science)**

**Name: Teacher:**

**Assignment 1 – Psychological perspectives**

You will be working individually to complete the assignment; you *MUST* submit your own *INDIVIDUAL* written report.

**Unit abstract**

Crime and its consequences is a continuing social issue that affects everyone. But

why do some people commit crime while others do not, and what are the effects of

crime on victims and the wider community? These are the kinds of questions that are

of concern to those involved in criminal psychology, as well as those who have the

responsibility for preventing and investigating crime and dealing with those who

break the law.

This unit examines the way in which psychology helps us to understand criminal

behaviour and how it may be applied to aspects of the criminal justice system (CJS).

To begin with, learners will consider what psychology is and explore some of the

approaches used in applying it to the study of crime and criminals. Learners will

examine how different psychological perspectives have been applied to explain

criminal behaviour and aspects of victims’ and others’ perceptions of crime.

Learners will examine the research methods employed, including the ethical issues

involved, and have the opportunity to apply these research methods to aspects of

crime.

The unit also explores the influence psychological studies have had on our

understanding of behaviour in the CJS including eyewitness testimony, courtroom

behaviour, jury deliberation and the treatment of offenders.

This unit provides an introduction to the application of psychology to the issues of

crime in society. It forms the foundation for exploring forensic psychology and

criminology.

**Learning outcomes**

**On completion of this unit a learner should**:

1 Understand how psychological perspectives have been used to explain criminal

behaviour

2 Be able to use research methods to undertake a psychological study into a crime

issue

3 Understand how psychology theories have been applied to different issues within

the CJS

4 Understand the influence psychological research has had on aspects of the CJS.

**Scenario**

Psychologists often work alongside the police and within the judicial system to help explain the workings of people’s minds. This is particularly useful with the police force, but before we can explain how a criminal is thinking we have to be able to have some explanations as to why people may become criminals. You have been asked by the police force to write an article to be printed in their newsletter about the theories behind why criminals become criminals.

**Task 1**

Research at least 3 different theories that have been used by psychologists to explain criminal behaviour. Describe the main features of each one, the ideas behind it and how research was carried out to support it.

(Grading criterion P1)

**Task 2**

Compare the similarities and differences between the theories you have researched, this can include the theories and the studies used to produce evidence.

**(Grading criterion M1)**

**Task 3**

Evaluate how well the approaches contribute to understanding criminal behaviour, and explain their strengths and limitations.

**(Grading criterion D1)**

**DEADLINE ……………………………..**