Centre Number 12430

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

**Name: Teacher:**

**Assignment 2 – Psychological Studies**

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**

You are working for Channel 4’s Dispatches programme and have been asked to devise a psychological study in order to investigate a criminal issue. You need to produce a written report with statistics which can be used within the programme entitled ‘Crime island: Britain speaks’.

**Task 1a**

Plan a psychological study into a crime issue and produce a written report. Your report must be clear and contain; an aim and hypothesis, consider ethical issues, have a detailed method, have a statistical analysis of your results, and have an analysis and conclusion.

(Grading criterion P2)

Task 1b

Carry out your Psychological study and record your data.

**Task 2**

Explain how the results of the psychological study contribute to the understanding of a crime issue, including how what you have found relates to the area you were investigating. This can be done in a discussion section of your report.

**(Grading criterion M2)**

**Task 3**

Evaluate the psychological study, comparing the results and conclusions with other reports. This should include whether it supports previous research, strengths and limitations of the method used, difficulties encountered, and what might have been done differently.

**(Grading criterion D2)**

**DEADLINE ……………………………..**