Centre Number 12430

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

**Name: Teacher:**

**Assignment 3 – Criminal Justice System**

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**

The Criminal Justice System is important in the running of modern day society. Psychologists are often employed to carry out research which can later influence the work done by operatives within the system; be it lawyers in the court room or the police during criminal interviews. You have been asked to prepare a section of a text book aimed at level 3 BTEC students to explain the use of psychology within the CJS.

**Task 1**

You must describe how theories have been applied to different aspects of the CJS. This might include how theories on memory have been applied to interviewing witnesses, or how theories have been applied to the treatment of offenders. (**P5**)

For **M3**, you must show how these psychological theories have been applied, for example how the cognitive interview is used.

For **D3**, you must consider how effective the theories described and demonstrated for **P5** and **M3** have been when applied to crime issues. You will need to include information from research carried out in studies.

(Grading criterion P3, M3, D3)

**Task 2**

Psychological theories have often influenced criminal justice policy. Changes have been made in the way crimes are investigated by police, how victim, witnesses and suspects are dealt with, what happens in court and the treatment of offenders. For **P6**, you must describe how psychological research has influenced one of these aspects of the CJS.

For **M4**, you must explain in detail one aspect of psychological research and how it has influenced the administration of justice. You will need to be detailed in your explanation and give examples frequently.

**(Grading criterion P6, M4)**

**DEADLINE ……………………………..**