

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who should take the course?

Students should have a real interest in science and criminology. Students must be willing to learn new scientific skills, problem solve, and explore the exciting world of forensic science. Students should be willing to explore new theories and form their own ideas and opinions from these. Ideally when studying this course, students should be looking at a pathway into a Forensic science related degree at University.

What is the course about?

BTEC Level 3 Forensic and Criminal Investigation Aims to:

- Give all students the opportunity to gain a new, nationally recognised qualification that can be used when applying either for future education or employment
- Provide a wide-ranging, intellectually demanding vocational learning experience
- Use the motivating interest in science and forensics to promote academic learning
- Give the students opportunities to acquire a scientific understanding of forensics including practical skills, forensic photography, fire investigation and the applications of criminal investigations.
- It will extend the students' knowledge in all aspects of criminal science.

How is it assessed?

The BTEC Level 3 Forensic and Criminal Investigation has both exam and coursework elements. There are four externally assessed Units that comprise of 1 exam and 3 controlled assessment over the 2 year course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on a range of forensic science techniques. Mandatory units range from exams, controlled assessments to written coursework. These cover topics such as applications of science, scientific procedures and techniques, forensic practice, applications of criminology and forensic psychology.

The BTEC Level 3 Forensic and Criminal Investigation is equivalent to two 'A' Level grades A – E and must be studied over the two years.

Grading

The level of attainment will be marked individually for each unit of the course, in line with BTEC guidelines. The grades will be:

- Distinction
- Merit
- Pass

An overall grade is awarded for the qualification based on the performance in each unit.

Where will it take me?

With further training or study, students can go into careers in:

- Forensic scientist
- Biomedical scientist
- Analytical chemist
- Toxicologist
- Laboratory technician
- Police
- Criminologist

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