

UNIT 3: CRIME SCENE TO COURTROOM

Controlled assessment: 8 hours

L01: Understand the process of criminal investigations

AC1.1 Evaluate the effectiveness of the roles of personnel involved in criminal investigations

Personnel

- crime scene investigators
- forensic specialists
- forensic scientists
- police officers/detectives
- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- pathologist
- other investigative agencies, e.g. Serious and Organised Crime Agency, HM Revenue & Customs

Learners should have an understanding of the roles of the personnel involved and be able to evaluate their effectiveness in criminal investigations. The effectiveness should be considered in the context of potential limitations:

- cost
- expertise
- availability

AC1.2 Assess the usefulness of investigative techniques in criminal investigations

Techniques

- forensic
- surveillance techniques
- profiling techniques
- use of intelligence databases, e.g. National DNA Database
- interview techniques e.g. eye witness interviews, expert interviews

Criminal investigations

- situations
 - crime scene
 - laboratory
 - police station
 - street

Types of crime

- violent crime
- e-crime
- property crime

You are required to demonstrate an understanding of the range of investigative techniques and assess their usefulness in a range of different types of criminal investigations, considering situations and types of crime.

AC1.3 Explain how evidence is processed

Types of evidence

- physical evidence
- testimonial evidence

Process

- transfer
- storage
- analysis
- personnel involved

You are required to demonstrate an understanding of the different types of evidence and how they are collected and processed. Learners should explore how different types of evidence were processed through a range of case studies, e.g. Barry George, Sally Clarke, Angela Cannings, and Amanda Knox.

AC1.4 Examine the rights of individuals in criminal investigations

Individuals

- suspects
- victims
- witnesses

You are required to consider the rights of all individuals from investigation through to appeal.

L02: Understand the process for prosecution of suspects

AC2.1 Explain the requirements of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for prosecuting suspects

Requirements

- charging role – Criminal Justice Act 2003
- Prosecution of Offences Act 1985
- Full Code Test

You are required to show an understanding of the role of the CPS. Learners should explain the evidential and public interest tests in the decision to prosecute.

AC2.2 Describe trial processes

Processes

- pre-trial
- bail
- roles
- plea bargaining
- courts
- appeals

You are required to show knowledge of each of the stages of the trial process including the roles of the personnel involved.

AC2.3 Understand rules in relation to the use of evidence in criminal cases

Rules of evidence

- relevance and admissibility
- disclosure of evidence
- hearsay rule and exceptions
- legislation and case law

You are required to have an understanding of how evidence is used in court.

AC2.4 Assess key influences affecting the outcomes of criminal cases

Influences

- evidence
- politics
- media
- judiciary
- witnesses
- barristers and legal teams
- experts

You are required to show an understanding of the many factors that can influence the outcome of a trial and be able to assess their impact.

AC2.5 Discuss the use of laypeople in criminal cases

Laypeople

- juries
- magistrates

You are required to show an ability to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of both juries and lay magistrates.

L03: Be able to review criminal cases

AC2.1 Explain the requirements of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for prosecuting suspects

Requirements

- charging role – Criminal Justice Act 2003
- Prosecution of Offences Act 1985
- Full Code Test

You are required to show an understanding of the role of the CPS. Learners should explain the evidential and public interest tests in the decision to prosecute.

L03: Be able to review criminal cases

AC3.1 Examine information for validity

Examine for

- bias
- opinion
- circumstances
- currency
- accuracy

Information

- evidence
- trial transcripts
- media reports
- judgements
- Law Reports



Learners should develop the ability to review the information and make judgements on the suitability of the content they provide against several criteria. In their controlled assessment response, learners should refer to the assignment brief and other examples they have studied.

AC3.2 Draw conclusions from information

Conclusion

- just verdicts
- miscarriage
- safe verdict
- just sentencing



Learners should develop skills to analyse information, and draw conclusions based on reasoned evidence. In their controlled assessment response, learners should refer to the assignment brief and other examples they have studied.