

# Criminology transition work, Summer 2023

The social sciences (Criminology, Sociology, Psychology, Law, Economics) share a common approach to study. You are required to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the topics, to apply what you have learned to novel situations and to analyse, evaluate and justify.

KS5 courses are a step up from the way you have worked at GCSE. These tasks are designed to help you prepare you for this way of working.

## Your task is to design a prison.

The task is split into four stages – research, planning, design and justification. This is similar to the approach that you will take in Criminology Unit 1 for your first controlled assessment.

You will learn more about prisons and the aims of punishment in Unit 4. Prisons try to meet the aims of punishment. They are:

- retribution - punishment inflicted out of vengeance for the crime they committed
- rehabilitation - the act of restoring someone to normal life by reforming their character and behaviour
- protection of the public - physically stopping the offender from committing any more crimes while they are locked up inside
- deterrence - making the offender decide not to commit crimes again in future to avoid going back to prison (individual deterrence) or making people in society decide not to commit crimes in the first place through fear of going to prison (general deterrence).

## Stage 1 – Research (3 hours)

You will need to decide which of the main aims of punishment you think should be most important when designing a prison and find out how existing prisons try to meet each of the aims of punishment

Use the links and questions to guide you in making notes before you start your own design. The additional reading links are optional.

(a) Find out about the Panopticon design. What is it and what is the aim of it in a prison?

<https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Panopticon>

(b) Find out about different types of prison design, eg. the radial system at Pentonville prison, and how/why prisoners are often kept separate.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7138110.stm>

(c) Find out how the most maximum-security prisons keep prisoners secure and what prisoners' lives are like. Think about the aims of punishment that might be achieved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVCRjdN3UTM>

<https://theconversation.com/how-lessons-in-scandinavian-design-could-help-prisons-with-rehabilitation-106554>

(d) How does prison design in Scandinavia differ from traditional UK designs? How has this influenced prison design in some places in the UK, eg HMP Berwyn?

(e) Find out about HMP Grendon and the culture of therapeutic care for prisoners there. What would this sort of prison look and feel like?

<https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2008/08/22/grendon-prison-a-model-for-therapeutic-care/>

(f) Use this article to generate some ideas about your list of rules in prison

<https://prisonreformtrust.org.uk/adviceguide/prison-rules-and-adjudications/>

### ***Optional additional reading***

If you want more detail on some of the factors taken into consideration before designing prisons, this is a useful but quite lengthy article: <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/architecture/how-to-build-better-prisons-new-designs-and-a-new-look-at-their-purpose-a6764021.html>

The Bromley Briefings give criminologists really useful data on what is going on in prison. For example: How many prisoners do we have? What is the mix of gender and ethnic origin? How many prisoners reoffend and how quickly after release? You might find some of this data useful to help justify the choices you make in your own prison design.

<https://prisonreformtrust.org.uk/publication/bromley-briefings-prison-factfile-january-2023/>

**If you are taking A level Psychology** you would benefit from listening to the BBC Radio 4 programme about the Stanford Prison Experiment:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008crhv>

**If you are taking A level Law** you would benefit from reading the Justice Secretary's speech about prison reform: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prisons-reform-speech>

**If you are taking A level Sociology** you would benefit from watching this short film about the role of prisons in the criminal justice system

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIOkwbhBGxs>

**If you are taking A level Economics** you would benefit from reading this article about the informal economy in prisons: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/aug/30/prison-economy-informal-markets-alternative-currencies>

### **Stage 2 – Planning (1 hour)**

Based on your research, which aims are you going to try to achieve in your own prison design, and why?

Out of the examples of prison design, rules, facilities etc that you have read about, which features are you going to try to incorporate in your own design?

Which features of other prisons will you reject? Why?

### **Stage 3 – Design (3 hours)**

Your design work can be on paper or on a computer.

The design will be influenced by prisons you have read about but you should not copy and paste from existing web resources. Make this your own original design.

In your designs you must include all of the following:

- (a) an aerial (bird's eye/top down) view of the prison - annotate key features with brief descriptions
- (b) a schedule of a typical prisoner's day
- (c) a set of rules that all prisoners will have to abide by

#### ***Optional extras:***

- (d) drawings of internal rooms/cells/features of the prison
- (e) rewards and punishments systems that you want to include in your prison
- (f) number of prisoners and guards or other staff

### **Stage 4 - Justification**

Write a summary to justify the decisions that you made in your prison design. For example, you might want to explain

- (a) your layout
- (b) colour choices
- (c) facilities offered

(d) specific rules

(e) how prisoners spend their time

(f) whether they share a cell etc.

Imagine you are pitching this prison to a government department looking to build a new prison - try to be persuasive (use the DAFOREST techniques to help you with this). Make sure that you show that your design is really well thought out and makes sense. Try to link your justification in with your research eg. if you read about a scheme run in another prison that seemed to work well, you might replicate it in your own prison. If you are trying to solve the problem of high re-offending rates amongst prisoners, this might influence some of the decisions you made in terms of how harsh the environment is, or instead how friendly and supportive it is. Finally go back to the main aims of punishment that you set out to achieve in your prison - will the decisions you have made ensure that those aims are met?