

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject

BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forensic Investigation

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? Pearson

Why should I study this course?

Forensic Science allows students to study the scientific processes that are involved in criminal investigations. This includes identifying unknown substances and analysing DNA profiles. This qualification is the equivalent of 1.5 A-levels. Students with a qualification in Forensic Science could choose to follow a variety of career paths, including:

- Forensic Analyst
- Scene of Crime Officer
- Police Officer
- Toxicologist
- Law

Who is suitable to study this course?

Students who enjoyed studying science at GCSE will enjoy this course. It links well with other subjects, such as psychology and criminology.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

Students need to have passed GCSE science. There are also some numeracy skills involved, so students should possess good maths skills.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

GCSE combined Science (Grade 4/4) or Triple Science (4/4/4) GCSE English and Maths, both at Grade 4

How is the Course Delivered?

Students have 5 hours in the classroom each week, with a similar amount of time dedicated to independent study. Students will have two different teachers who will teach different elements of the course.

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Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Principles and applications of applied science.	Forensic investigation procedures in practice
Autumn 2	Practical scientific procedures and techniques.	Forensic investigation procedures in practice
Spring 1	Environmental Forensics	Forensic Photography
Spring 2	Environmental Forensics	Forensic Photography
Summer 1	Science Investigation skills	Revision
Summer 2	Science Investigation skills. Exams.	Exams

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How is the Course Assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of internal and external assessment.

The internal assessment involves completing coursework assignments. These involve writing up research, using case studies to explore unfamiliar situations, completing projects, and demonstrating practical skills.

The external assessment includes a mixture of examinations and set tasks. The examinations are available twice a year and you are able to re-sit if you need to.

The examination is on Unit 1 and is a 2 hour exam worth 90 marks.

The set task is Unit 3 and includes a Part A, which is a period of preparation using set information, which is a supervised 3 hour session. This is followed by part B, which is a 1.5 hour task completed under supervision. This is worth 60 marks.

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study?

- Revision workbooks from the BTEC National in Applied Science series (for unit 1 and unit 3)